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# Ralph Thoresby, the Topographer ; His Town and Times.

BY

D. H. ATKINSON,

EDITOR OF "OLD LEEDS: ITS BYEGONES AND CELEBRITIES."

WITH PORTRAIT OF THORESBY,

FROM THE ORIGINAL PAINTING BY PARMENTIER.

VOL. II.

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LEEDS :  
WALKER AND LAYCOCK.  
1887.



## The Ducatus Leodiensis.

It is difficult to say when Thoresby's great undertaking, the history of his native town, had its commencement. The beginning of his preface mentions the sermon in his school-boy days which spoke of the antiquity of Leeds, and excited his young imagination; and how strong was the impression then made is evident from his thus prominently recording it after so great an interval of time.\* But the *Ducatus Leodiensis* gradually and naturally resulted from his devotion to antiquarian studies in general, early fostered by his father's like inclination. Some foundation for it may be discerned among the transcribed epitaphs and inscriptions which he long and industriously collected, although they extended far beyond the limits of local topography;† but it is not until the summer of 1691, when he was in his thirty-third year, that we find Thoresby definitely engaged upon the antiquities of Leeds. On the 7th of March 1692, he spent the forenoon in "consulting the two oldest registers of Leeds parish, for the two famous Cooks," &c., successively vicars of Leeds; and again, on the 11th, he was "most of day examining old registers of Leeds Church." The same year, when delayed in York by a tedious assize trial,‡ he relieved his enforced leisure by visiting "the ingenious and industrious antiquary, Mr. Torre," who, educated for the law, had settled in York, devoting himself to antiquarian and historical researches; and who,—

\* Vol. I., page 42.

† "Within, making an Index to my own collection of epitaphs, &c., where I have travelled."—*Diary*, 29th June 1704.

‡ Vol. I., page 322.

"From the records of the Cathedral, and other original writings, has composed a large folio manuscript, which he honoured me with the sight of, and allowed me thence to transcribe an account of Archbishop Thoresby's benefactions; and presented me with his seal, whereby it appears that he was Cardinal Presbyter, by the title of St. Peter *ad Vincula*; but had too small time to peruse so pleasing rarities and consult so obliging a gentleman, who, by his courteous demeanour and importunate requests, has laid an obligation upon me to wait on him the first opportunity I can obtain."

In two months Thoresby again visited him, sitting up the same evening "till past midnight transcribing from Mr. Torre's manuscript a catalogue of the Abbots of Kirkstall and Vicars of Leeds." \*

In 1693 Dr. Johnson wrote to Thoresby from London:—

"Having now got something beforehand with my other work, I resolved to take the time while those are fair writing out to go through all my indexes, and collect whatever I find relating to Leeds; and when I have so done, I will digest them into a methodical strict of time, and transmit them to you that you may thereby compare them with what you have digested, and if you think fit to print it I shall give my consent. . . Let me have only an extract of the heads of those materials you have, and the dates, as also what method you take in compiling, digesting, and then I can better note in the indexes I go through in the searching through all my books, what may be proper to search for. I assure you I will not near give over till I have ransacked all my books, which I am sure will take me up a month at least of all the spare time I can have."

A fever interposed between this promise of aid and its fulfilment, as the Doctor informed Thoresby in the following January, when he made another, but less difficult engagement,—

\* Vol. I., page 353. Mr. Hunter has a long note concerning Mr. Torre, son of Torre of the Isle of Axholme, Lincolnshire. He was baptized on the 13th of April 1649.

"As soon as I can get some work beforehand for the transcriber, I shall resume the business of Leeds." His immediate occupation was the completion of a fifth volume of Antiquities of the Shrewsbury family. "These," wrote Dr. Johnston, "I am obliged to finish in hopes of a gratuity to relieve my wants;" and two more volumes were to follow.

"18 May 1694. Perusing a curious survey of the Manor of Leeds, taken 9 Jac. 1;" whose Queen, Anne of Denmark, had the Manor as part of her jointure. Thoresby directly follows this survey in the Ducatus,—

"In the Topography of the *Main-Riding* I shall take the Circuit, as described in a noble Survey of the Mannor of Leedes, that was taken when Gilbert, Earl of Shrewsbury was Steward, beginning at the North Bar." \*

On the 15th of March 1695, the Rev. Joseph Hill, Non-conformist Minister, wrote from Rotterdam, where he was then stationed,—“I had yours some time since, and was glad to understand your design, wherein I shall serve you what I can;” and the letter gives Thoresby information for his purpose.

"6. April 1695. Consulting with Mr. Simmons about printing Memoirs." †

"8. All day consulting authors about the ancient Kings of Northumberland, in reference to the History of Leeds, in Manuscript Memoirs."

"19. All day, transcribing Historical Memoirs of Leeds. So evening, reading Camden."

\* On the 9th of September 1703, Thoresby, with the other Lords of the Manor, walked the boundary for seven miles, and then "left the residue to another opportunity, Russell (commonly called Admiral Russell) conveying us over the river."

† Mr. Simmons, a Sheffield bookseller, had held the first Auction Sale of books in Leeds, on the 29th and 30th of December 1692, at a great stone house in Briggate, where Dr. Skelton afterwards lived. Thoresby was there "with many others," and purchased a manuscript, *Scala Mundi*, entered as No. 13 among the folio M.S.S. of his Catalogue. See *Diary*, and note by its editor.

Dr. Gibson said in his letter of the 9th May 1695, after the publication of the *Britannica*,—

“I wish you had hinted to me something of your design of the History of Leeds a little sooner, that I might have told the world from whom they are to expect the Antiquities of that place.”

Thus, before that employment of his leisure in 1696 on the church Registers which sent him exploring the neighbourhood for local antiquities, and led to his Royal Society Fellowship, Thoresby's great work was systematically progressing. In his *Review* for 1697 he wrote,—

“What time I could spare from business was spent in transcribing a large manuscript fol. of Mr. Hopkinson's, containing the pedigrees of the Nobility and Gentry, to which dear Mr. Thornton made some valuable additions from the writings of the families he was concerned for as counsellor, and other notices from the registers of many parish churches, that upon the whole, it was very useful to me in the *Ducatus Leodiensis*, and was my employment in the morning till day-light, and the evening.”

“10 February 1703. Finished the transcript of Mr. Hopkinson's M.S. folio of the pedigrees of the Yorkshire nobility and gentry of the West Riding, with additions and continuations, in many places, by the excellent Mr. Thornton, who favoured me with the loan of it, wherein are many things absolutely necessary to be inserted in my designed History of Leeds, which may be admitted as an apology for the expense of so much of my time [the original containing above eight hundred pages in folio] and my circumstances will not allow me an amanuensis.”

The transcript which Thoresby wrote is evidence of his resolute earnestness, assiduous industry, and enduring patience. Had not his heart been in his work, he could never have gone through with this formidable accessory to the main design, serviceable as it eventually proved. But seasonable and appropriate is a letter written to him meanwhile, by Dr. Edmund Gibson:—



“Lambeth, May 9 1699.”

“Dear Sir,

Above half of Mr. Nicholson's third part is now finished; and when the book is ready for publication, I doubt not but, among his other presents, one will be ordered for Leeds.\* But if I might article with you in his name, you should be debarred the satisfaction of reading it, till you will make a solemn promise, that your collections about Leeds and the neighbourhood shall be methodized and fitted for the press with all convenient speed. Your observations must be large already; and, therefore, pray remember the general fate of collectors, whose misfortune it has been, never to consider either the uncertainty of human life, or the uselessness of their own materials unless put together by the same hand that gathered them.

“The impost upon paper is now taken away;† and so the booksellers will be more forward to undertake than they have been of late years. Mr. Tanner begins to wind up his matters, and will be in the press sometime next winter: he is a good pattern, and in this particular I hope you will think him so; not being so partial to your own country as to reject him, and follow the steps of your countrymen, Mr. Dodsworth and Dr. Johnston. I have heard that Dr. Cuerdon's collections are immoderately large; let these take their chance, and not divert you from the work at home, about which you may employ your time with more honour and satisfaction to yourself, as well as greater benefit and advantage to the world . . .”

Evelyn had written to him in the previous February,—“I am not a little pleased at the expectation of the History of Leeds, which all who know your ability and industry cannot but be impatient for;” and it is evident that the following, in Mr.

\* Nicholson's Historical Library. The author wrote to Thoresby in August of the same year,—“By a mistake betwixt Mr. Gibson and my stationer in London, you hitherto want a copy of my Third Part. It is the case of most of my friends on this side Trent; and shall be rectified as soon as it is in my power to do it.”

† Paper Duty Bill had passed the Commons on the 29th of April.

Charles Towneley's letter already referred to, has some reference to the work in hand:—

“I shall further endeavour to recover the rest of my uncle Christopher's manuscripts, and carefully preserve those I have got, till you have need of them, which I wish may be soon; and hope your domestic affairs will be shortly composed, so that the public may not suffer from your too long attendance on them. I congratulate your having reprieved from destruction those valuable manuscripts you mention. What a loss to the learned it is, that in the last century there were no public spirited persons like yourself, in clothing countries, to rescue all old parchment books from being pulled to pieces, and made use of in hot-presses; the paste-board now employed being since found out to supply the want of the other.”

Thoresby's collection and digestion of materials went on for some years, notwithstanding his friend Gibson's sage admonition. Setting out upon a journey in March 1703, he first,—

“Rode by Halghton and Whitkirk to Preston-super-le-Hill, where most courteously received by Sir William Lowther, a native of Leeds, and noble benefactor to the library,\* whose house is pleasantly, but very strangely situated; they go up-stairs to the cellars, and down-stairs to the garrets: from a tower he has built there, York Minster may be seen, and a pleasant prospect of the country round about. After dinner I transcribed the twenty-eight families they have matched into, and had the perusal of some original letters to himself, from some eminent hands.”

On the 10th of June, he was engaged upon the pedigree of an ancient Leeds family, then almost extinct,—

“Perusing a M.S. Mr. Rockley brought me, and transcribing the pedigree of that ancient family, some of which resided at

\* Of the Free Grammar School. He was the son of Sir William Lowther of Leeds and Swillington, by Jane, daughter of Mr. William Busfield of Leeds, Merchant; and born as already mentioned in Kirkgate, Leeds, in the house where Edward Fairfax had once lived. This second Sir William Lowther died 7th December 1705, aged 66.

Rockley Hall, in Leeds, and had a quire in the old Church, in old writings called Rockley Whear, of which family this gentleman, now a retainer of Sir John Kaye, is the last heir male.'

September 4. Perusing a M.S. relating to the town about one hundred years ago; wherein pleased with the punishment of offenders in time of divine service; order of sessions (from the Justices at large, for the town was not then incorporated) for suppressing disorders on the Sabbath, the encouragement of exercises; then were the churches so full that they were constrained to build new seats and lofts, 'because they had no room any where in the church to sit in,' as are the express words of the famous Mr. Robert Cook, Vicar of Leeds. Oh, thrice happy days!"

"24 February 1704. Drawing the pedigree of the Lord Irwin and Mr. Ingram's family, before I took a walk to Barrowby to the funeral of Mr. Thomas Ingram, the eldest son of Arthur Ingram, Esq., brother to the first Lord Irwin; heartily sympathised with the good old gentleman, and the prudent and pious relict of the gentleman deceased in the prime of his days. Afterwards in return transcribed the monuments in Whitkirk."

"29 March. Riding with the Vicar, Mr. Thornton, Mayor and Aldermen, to Temple Newsome, where most kindly received by my Lord, the Lady Dowager, &c. Received an account of some benefactions, &c., relating to that honourable family from Mr. Roads, one of the trustees during his Lordship's minority, to whom his Lordship referred me; found the ways very bad that I rode as usually in fear, but received no harm, blessed be God!"

Thoresby now withdrawing entirely from commercial undertakings, it might be thought that his whole time and energy would be devoted to his History, and, consequently, its progress be rapid. But ten years more elapsed before the issue of the first part of his projected publication, and many more extracts from his diary in relation to it might be given. As,—

"13 March 1708. Taking dimensions of the Church, as to length and breadth; most of day writing an account of it."

"15th. At Church about the new table of benefactions, which the Vicar desired me to prepare an account of; taking the inscriptions upon the bells," &c.

Although Thoresby ceased trading, and made his diminished estate suffice for his necessities, so large a portion of his time continued to be absorbed by religious observances, municipal obligations, travel and literary correspondence, in addition to the care entailed by the extensive collections in his museum and library, and to inevitable domestic and social claims, that instead of surprise at the *Ducatus* being so long in preparation, we may rather wonder that it got into print when it did.

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## XII.

### Religion, Politics and Municipal Office.

BIBLICAL STUDY—CHURCH ATTENDANCE—ELECTIONS—EUROPA LIBERA—GIBSON ON CONVOCATION—MUNICIPAL FESTIVITIES—COUNTY ELECTIONS—CHARITY SCHOOL—RECORDER THORNTON—THREATENED INVASION—ELECTION OF 1708—OUDENARDE AND MALPLAQUET—RENEWED VEXATION—LOCAL IMPROVEMENTS—DEATH OF MR. THORNTON—MONUMENTS—SACHEVEREL FERMENT—CORPORATION OF LEEDS—PEACE OF UTRECHT—CORPORATION OF LEEDS—QUEEN ANNE'S STATUE—THORESBY RESIGNS OFFICE.

THORESBY's daily private devotions, and "in family," involved extensive reading of the Scriptures, and of commentaries upon them; and, accustomed during his connection with the Nonconformists to frequent week-day lectures and sermons, on wholly uniting himself with the Church of England attendance upon its daily prayers became to him a valued privilege, which he only intermitted when circumstances over-ruled his inclination.

Before his marriage he commenced, on the 4th of January 1685, the Bible with Pool's Annotations. There was a remote family connection between him and the commentator:—

"16 March 1702. To Wakefield. Visited uncle and aunt Pool, of the same family with the famous Mr. Matthew Pool, author of the *Synopsis Criticorum*, who was born at York, where his father, Francis Pool, Esq. (an eminent lawyer), married Alderman Toppin's daughter, near the lower church in Micklegate (query register for date of his birth). His father, also, sometimes lived in Hull; my uncle Pool's father was his clerk. At the end of Westgate we saw the new erected meeting place, where his son-in-law, my cousin Sagar, preacheth."

The fact was that William Sykes of Leeds, uncle of Thoresby's wife, married Sarah, daughter of William Rawden, who, being left a widow, took for her second husband, Captain Joseph Pool of Wakefield,\* whose daughter Baptista married Joshua Sagar. Hence, "Cousin Sagar" and "Uncle Pool," who was descended from the commentator's grandfather, Richard Pool of Sykehouse. Even Thoresby does not venture to call the commentator "Cousin Pool;" but when in York in 1705, he went "to see the house (in Oldwork) where the famous Mr. Pool was born." Matthew Pool's Bible Annotations came down to the 56th chapter of Isaiah, and were continued thence by a number of Nonconformist Divines, a partial list of whom Thoresby obtained from Mr. Stretton, and a complete one from Dr. Sampson. Both are printed in his Correspondence, but there is a slight discrepancy between them. Thoresby's first perusal ended in May 1689; and in his Review for that year he wrote,—

"I concluded Mr. Pool's Annotations upon the Bible, which my old friend, Mr. Illingworth,† recommends as the first family book that ever was printed in the world; because containing the sacred text in a good character, together with pious and learned annotations upon it. The second volume, being the continuation, is by various hands, of which I have there inserted a list (somewhat different both from the Oxford historian's and Dr. Calamy's) from Mr. Stretton's letters to Mr. Sharp, wherein he owned (in order to draw in that too modest man) that himself did Peter, and, if I mistake not, Galatians too." But Mr. Sharp did not respond.

The day after that on which he finished Pool, Thoresby began the Italian Diodati's Annotations upon the Holy Bible, expounding the difficult places, with an analysis to it by another

\* His brother, Captain Samuel Pool of Leeds, married Silence, daughter of the Puritan Vicar, Peter Saxton. The Pedigree in the *Ducatus Leodiensis* gives the name Poole.

† President of Emmanuel College; and Thoresby's fellow traveller to Manchester.—Vol. I., page 146.

hand; and concurrently he read Wilkins, Bishop of Chester, author of a "Discourse concerning the Gift of Prayer." In June 1691, he began "An Explication (by way of Paraphrase) of all the hard Texts of the whole Scripture," by Hall, successively Bishop of Exeter and Norwich; but this, he says, "being but short and upon particular places,"—

"March 2 1693. I began with those called the Assembly's Annotations, in two large volumes, small print; which, with other authors that intervened (reading sermons some part of the time, instead of chapters) kept me employed near five years. Note, though these go by the name of the Assembly's, Bishop Richardson and other Episcopal Divines bore a worthy share therein."

A list of these Annotations is also given in Dr. Sampson's printed letter.

"January 11 1699. I begun the New Testament, with Mr. Baxter's Paraphrase; and 11th of September, same year, begun Bishop Hall's Paraphrase the second time."

"April 22 1701. I begun the old translation of the Bible, with the marginal notes; and read along therewith Mr. Clark's Analysis, or Survey of the Bible."

In December he was "collating the edition of the Prayer Book in Queen Elizabeth, with the present and the Scotch Liturgy," &c. In the following February he again collated the several editions of the Prayer Books, and "finished in family Bedel's Diary of a Thankful Christian." Later on he read Bishop Usher on Self-Examination, Bishop Patrick's Appendix; and his friend Gibson's, then Bishop of Lincoln, Answer to the Pretended Independence of the Lower House of Convocation upon the Upper, upon which he observes,—

"Am sorry to observe that such contempt should be poured upon such excellent Bishops as the good Providence of God has bestowed upon us, than whom I think this nation never enjoyed more learned and pious prelates, nor more of them, yet

strangely affronted by the high-flown party who pretend a veneration for that order their practices seem to undermine."

"14 Feb. 1703. Begun Mr. Clark of Communion with God, at the end of his Analytical Survey of the Bible, which I concluded yesterday, in the usual course of family duty, together with the old translation of the Bible and the marginal notes, of which I have neither so towering an opinion as some, nor so mean as others," &c.

He also begun Clark's Annotations. Subsequently he read Clark's Harmony of the Gospels, "Dr. Hick's Devotions in the ancient way of Offices, with psalms, hymns, and prayers, originally written by Mr. Austin, a Romanist, but reformed by a person of quality, and published by Dr. Hicks; and in this dress is not only useful and edifying, but very affecting." He next "finished the second perusal of Dr. Grew's *Cosmologia Sacra*; wherein the learned and pious author does admirably and most ingeniously demonstrate the truth and excellency of the Bible, evincing it beyond all the objections of pretended critics and supposed wits."

"Nov. 14 1703. Finished the perusal of Mr. Bradbury's pious and ingenious sermons, some whereof were preached at Leeds, when he was in my cousin Whitaker's family,\* to whom they were dedicated. I ought to make one remark in his commendation, that when here he used once a week to instruct the youth to sing in their chapel, which succeeds so well, that that congregation perform the best of most, if not any in these parts, which is the more remarkable, because some of that congregation are too scrupulous in singing in what they call a mixed congregation. He had afterwards a call to Manchester, subscribed by the Lord Willoughby and the chief of that church; was courted for his known moderation by a party at Mill-Hill to succeed Dr. Manlove; had calls to several other places; was for a time at Beverley, and after at Newcastle, whence he lately removed to London."

\* Thomas Bradbury for a time assisted Whitaker at Call Lane Chapel.



Briggs, of Catholic Unity and Church Communion, "the reverend author's gift"; Bishop Stillingfleet's *Origines Sacræ*, with his additions to it "in the new edition published by our countryman Dr. Bentley"; an "excellent volume of Sermons" by the Archbishop of York ("his Grace's gift, was often much affected in reading them"), formed part of Thoresby's theological course in the following year. He also read, and commends with a slight qualification, the first volume of Fox's Acts and Monuments; and at the end of October 1704, he "began the Bible, with arguments and marginal notes, as in the edition preceeding the present translation." Usher's Annals of the Old and New Testament, and Sir John Spelman's Saxon Psalms were part of his reading in 1705. His Review for the year 1706 commences,—

"I had now read over the entire Bible, with notes, eight times since our marriage, and have in some measure made it the rule of my life."

On the 7th of April, the same year, he "began the Bible with Pool's Annotations, second time."

To complete the account of Thoresby's Biblical studies to the publication of the *Ducatus*, there has yet to be added:—

"11 July 1708. Concluded Mr. Tindal's Pentateuch, 8vo., whereof Genesis was printed 'at Malborow in the land of Hesse,' January 17 1530."

"7 July 1709. I begun the excellent Mr. M. Henry's upon the Pentateuch."

"10 Feb. Begun his second volume (upon Joshua), and there being no more yet published, I continued from Job to the Revelations without them."

"1 Jan. 1710–11. I begun the edition of the Bible (in secret) that was printed by Harrison, anno 1562, with Archbishop Cranmer's Prologue, which I finished the 20th of December after."

"9 Feb. [1712.] After I concluded an ancient edition of the Bible, in Quarto."

"The same Feb. 9 1712, I begun Tindal's translation of the Bible, in folio, with notes upon each chapter, printed anno 1549; which I concluded March 28 1713, as I did another somewhat different translation of the Bible (printed in a different character beyond sea), 15th Aug. 1713."

"16 Aug. 1713. I begun again the Holy Bible of the present Translation."\*

Thus much time did Thoresby consecrate in private; as to his attendance on public religious services, a single extract will suffice. The passage relating to the cross in baptism, which has before been quoted,† is continued,—

"On the other hand, as I should not omit the monthly celebration of the Lord's Supper, so neither the usual gestures, the Church declaring so fully against the abuse of it, nor should I ever, I hope, as long as I am able to walk, so far forbear a constant attendance upon the public common prayers twice every day, in which course I have found much comfort and advantage, and do from my very heart bless God for those happy opportunities, the loss of which is almost the sole reason that keeps me from a solitary recess into the country, for a greater freedom in study and meditation."

But far from becoming a recluse, he took interest in public events, and continued to discharge his public duties as a member of the Corporation.

The Parliament existing at the death of William the Third continued to sit, under the Act of the 7th and 8th of his reign, until its prorogation in May 1702, and on the 2nd of July it was dissolved. On the 21st of that month, Thoresby "rode to York, with vast numbers to the election of Knights of the Shire for the ensuing Parliament;" and there, he says, "waited of my Lord Fairfax and Sir John Kaye. . . . Was afterwards with my Lord Fairfax, Sir Walter Hawksworth, and some members of Parliament, till pretty late." Thomas, the fifth Lord

\* *Diary*, Vol. II., page 400.

† Vol. I., page 317.

Fairfax, had been member for Yorkshire from the Revolution. Sir John Kaye, Bart., had been his colleague until the election of 1698, when Viscount Downe was chosen in his place. In 1700 Kaye was again elected; but on the next dissolution, in 1701, he was a second time displaced, by Arthur, Viscount Trwyn. Politics now ran high, with the current strongly against the Whigs. Lord Fairfax refused to stand again; and Thoresby writes on the 22nd of July 1702,—

“At the Castle Yard, where was a general discontent visible in the countenances and expressions of all persons at my Lord Fairfax’s declining, as being too late in his applications; came but into Yorkshire on Saturday last, though people generally apprehended, if he had but appeared this morning, he would have been one. I was again with several gentlemen to wait of him, but, upon his resolution to desist, the Marquis of Hartington and Sir John Kaye were elected.”

William, Marquis of Hartington, was the eldest son of the first Duke of Devonshire, Lord Steward of the Household, who was one of the Whig Peers continued in office by Queen Anne.\* Thoresby had a letter from Sir John Kaye, during the ensuing session, in which he says:—“Am very well pleased I can in any respect serve you or your friends, which you shall always find me ready to do with pleasure.” But according to another letter which Thoresby had from Mr. Stretton, when the session ended, the newly-elected colleagues did not work well together:—

“One of your Knights of the Shire (which would do pretty well in a good Parliament) will be stark nought in a bad one: your two Knights are never on a side in any trying case; the Lord Fairfax and the other Knight would have agreed much better.”

\* The Marquis of Hartington was Captain of the Yeoman of the Guard, and as such, in the December after his election, first received at Windsor the Archduke Charles of Austria, who had Regal honours paid to him as King of Spain, he being rival to the Duke of Anjou.

On the 29th of September 1702, Thoresby took part in an election of another kind,—

“After dinner was with Lords of the Manor; was at the Court, where a new Mayor and Common-Councilman were chosen. I was glad a proud, haughty man was prevented, and our good Vicar’s brother elected.”

The Mayor was James Kitchingman (brother of a former one), who married a connection of Thoresby’s, one of the Fentons of Woodhouse Hill. Benjamin Killingbeck, the Vicar’s brother, was the new Assistant or Councilman. After the Court, Thoresby was “at the Mayor’s treat till past ten.”

Later in the year, Thoresby’s diary contains some very curious entries relating to a memorable passage in the history of the war against France and Spain. William the Third had planned an expedition against Cadiz; and his idea was acted upon under Queen Anne. An expedition commanded by the Duke of Ormond, with Sir George Rooke as Admiral, reached Cadiz at the beginning of September 1702; but there was disunion among those engaged in it, and the fleet left again discreditably at the end of the month, the purpose unattained. But in returning, the failure was in some measure atoned for by a courageous and successful attack on rich Spanish galleons from America, in the Bay of Vigo, where they had put in for safety, instead of sailing to their ordinary destination, Cadiz.

Thoresby states that on the 30th of the following November he was visited by “the ingenious Mr. Mauleverer;” Nicholas Mauleverer, born at Letwell, on the south border of Yorkshire, six miles from Worksop, in Nottinghamshire, but who lived for some years in Leeds, and while there wrote a treatise entitled *Europa Libera*. He lent to Thoresby the pedigree of his “ancient family, of which one branch settled at Potter Newton, for several generations,” and it is made use of in the *Ducatus*. He also, continues the diary,—

"Presented me his curious treatise, *Europa Libera*, which being communicated in M.S. to a Prime Minister of State (my Lord H——x), was not only approved of by him, but in many particulars put in practice, though under the notion of his own project, and seems to have had an influence upon our happy success at Vigo," &c.\*

"Dec. 9. Got not to church; read Mr. Mauleverer's *Europa Libera*, which seems to me, not only honestly designed for the public good, but to be very well performed, and is thought by more competent judges than I can be in state affairs, to have had a happy influence upon our good success in respect of the Spanish plate fleet, and the attempt at Vigo, and 'tis now said, that the Duke of Ormond is again going out with the fleet upon some great enterprise that is yet kept secret, but perhaps to attempt some place in the Indies to gain possession of some of the American mines, to which the English are at liberty by the sixth article of the Alliance, which was procured some months after the first edition of this treatise, which had before that been communicated to, and approved by, several of our good ministers of state."

"My Lord H——x" can be none other than Charles Montague, created Baron and afterward Earl of Halifax, who was first of the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury, and Chancellor of the Exchequer, shortly before the death of William the Third; but who was left out of her Privy Council by Queen Anne. If this treatise, written in Leeds by a private individual, now almost unknown or forgotten, had really the influence here attributed to it, we have in it one instance of the defective

\* Wardell gives the following extract from the Court Books of the Leeds Corporation. It is dated 26th November:—"Ordered that the sume of twelve pounds be allowed out of the publick Stock, to be expended at a treat at Mr. Blaik's, upon Thursday the 3rd of December next, being the day appointed for publick thanksgiving, for the Success of her Ma<sup>ties</sup> army and her allies ag<sup>t</sup> Vigo, and that whoever Stayes to Spend above that, they shall pay it out of their own pocketts." Perhaps this explains Mr. Mauleverer's visit with his treatise at this time.

character of much historical narration, even when true so far as it goes.\*

In the same year, 1702, there arose the contention between the two Houses of Convocation, the Lower House striving to extend its power against the Upper, during which the appellations "High Church" and "Low Church" originated. On the 8th of January 1703,† Dr. Gibson commenced a letter to Thoresby,—

"While these disputes in Convocation hold, it is a favour that I am forced to desire of all my friends to be excused from answering letters so punctually as I ought, though, in truth, my arrears with you are too great to be fairly excused. I hope you have, ere this, received 'The Pretended Independence of the Lower House,' &c., which filled my head and hands for some weeks, and being much more bulky than I intended, will convince you, at least, that my silence was not the effect of forgetfulness, but business, if it be fit to plead that as an excuse, which now begins to be a crime,—I mean, the multiplying books upon a controversy which begins to be tiresome to everybody."

\* On the 30th of April 1712, Thoresby walked from his brother-in-law Rayner's, at Brotherton, to Burton, near Ferrybridge,—“to visit my old friend Mr. Mauleverer, but found him so very weak that I enjoyed little satisfaction in the house where my dear wife was born.” On the 9th of May following, Thoresby heard of his death. Mr. Hunter gives some particulars concerning him, from biographical notes among Thoresby's papers. He was of St. John's College, Cambridge, of Gray's Inn, and had been called to the Bar; and besides his *Europa* treatise, he wrote two anonymous tracts recommending moderation to parties in Church and State. He removed to Burton after the death of his only son.

His brother, John Mauleverer, was a Non-juror, and died in March 1695. Another Non-juror, Dr. George Hickes, spoke of him and some works of his in a letter to Thoresby, with this curious passage,—“The dream of the manner of his death is most certain.” This is explained by Thoresby's diary, 24th December 1702. Mr. Mauleverer “showed me the autograph of his brother John (late Fellow of Magdalen College, Cambridge) in a pocket book, wherein he had recorded his remarkable dream of his being wounded in the head by the fall of part of the roof of a house as he walked the streets, which shortly after came to pass.”

‡ In the correspondence, the year is given old style, 1702.

"9 February. Finished the perusal of the excellent Dr. Gibson's Answer to the Pretended Independence of the Lower House against the Upper; am sorry to observe that such contempt should be poured upon such excellent Bishops as the good providence of God has bestowed upon us, than whom I think this nation never enjoyed more learned and pious prelates, nor more of them, yet strangely affronted by the high-flown party who pretend a veneration for that order their practices seem to undermine."

This, to some extent, supports a passage in Burnet relating to the same inconsistency. It appears that Thoresby also wrote to Dr. Gibson, commending his work, for on the 4th of March Gibson replied,—

"I am much engaged to you for your charitable opinion of what I have troubled you with, about our convocation affair. It was fit, long since, that an end should be put to this unhappy dispute; but we are purely upon the defensive, and it is better to have no Episcopal Church, than to have Bishops under the awe and authority of Presbyters; for, by their present measures, an equality would scarce content them."

Thoresby, in all things, loved sobriety:—

"27 August 1703. Invited by, or rather in the name of the Marquis of Hartington, to a treat; but some of the company were so offensive to me by their oaths and bumpers, that I stayed not a quarter of an hour; this is not designed in derogation of his Lordship, who has the repute of a sober and excellent person, but in commiseration of our piteous circumstances, that a person must either be rude (at least so reputed), or run the hazard of wounding his own spirit, by sinful compliance, in most public treats."

But on the 20th of March 1704 Thoresby was "sent for by the Mayor and some of the Aldermen to consult more particularly concerning the Judges' entertainment." Mr. Justice Tracy and Baron Smith had been holding the Lent Assize at York, whence they were going to Lancaster.

"21. Rode with the Mayor and rest of Corporation in their formalities to meet the Judges (Tracy and Smith) who with the lawyers, &c., were treated by the Corporation, but was pleased to see all grave as judges, without the least intemperance in the whole company."

The next reference to public events in Thoresby's diary is dated 7th July 1704:—

"With the Corporation and clergy, at the public rejoicing for the Duke of Marlborough's late victory in Germany. Lord help us to do it in a more spiritual manner! Was displeased at the misspence of both time and money."

The victory here spoken of was that gained by Marlborough over the Bavarians under Count d'Arco, at Schellenberg, announced in the *Gazette* of the 3rd of July old style, publishing despatches of the same date, new. This portion of Thoresby's diary ends on the 29th, so we have no mention of Marlborough's great victory at Blenheim in the following month, to which that of Schellenberg was preliminary; nor of the taking of Gibraltar about the same time, by Sir George Rooke. Another thanksgiving day was proclaimed for the 7th of September. Many congratulatory addresses on the event were Gazetted, but this time one from Leeds does not appear among them.

Queen Anne's first Parliament was dissolved on the 5th of April 1705, the writs for a new one being returnable on the 14th of June; and in his Review for that year Thoresby says,—

"The election of Knights for the Shire obliged me with many others to ride to York; I took Bishopthorpe in my way, and was most kindly received by his Grace, but found too much company upon this public occasion. The Earl of Carlisle promised me an original letter of Count Tallard, now prisoner in England, but his non-performance showed him too much a courtier."

Count Tallard, the commander of the French forces at Blenheim, and there taken, had been brought to England as a



prisoner of war, and was kept at Nottingham. The Earl of Carlisle was Charles, the third Earl, who, at the death of William the Third, was First Lord of the Treasury, but had then to give way to Godolphin, whom he had himself succeeded. There were many changes in the new Parliament, the elections running more in favour of the Whigs. In Yorkshire, the former county members were re-elected; but on the 16th of August next year, 1706, Thoresby wrote,—

“Sir John Kaye, another friend, was buried this week; useful men are taken away, and useless cumber grounds left behind.”

As his successor in the representation, Lord Fairfax was again elected. At the general election of 1707, Lords Hartington and Fairfax were both returned members for Yorkshire in the first Parliament of Great Britain, the Act of Union of 1707 having come into effect; but Lord Fairfax, under that Act, became, as a Scotch Peer, disqualified for the Commons, and Lord Hartington, in consequence of his father's death, was raised to the House of Lords. They were succeeded in the Commons by Henry, second Viscount Down in the peerage of Ireland, whose father, then Sir John Dawney, sat for the county in the first Parliament after the Restoration; and by the Hon. Conyers Guidon Darcy, brother of the third Earl of Holderness, and an officer of the Guards. But none of these last-mentioned elections are alluded to in Thoresby's diary.

In 1705, notwithstanding the many demands upon his time, Thoresby gave voluntary aid in establishing a very useful local charity. We learn from the *Ducatus*, that his wife's ancestor, Richard Sykes, in the year 1620,\* joined with other of the principal townsmen in building, near the Free Grammar School, a,—

\* This was prior to the Incorporation of Leeds.

“House of Correction (as it is commonly called) a large and strong fabrick built of Free-stone . . . for a Workhouse. But the lazy Poor, who look upon all Pains as Punishments, will have it to be a *Domus suppliciorum vel pœnæ*, though it was never built, or ever employed, as such a wite-hus, as our *Saxon* Ancestors called those Places where sturdy Vagrants met with punitive Charity. It was for many Years employed only as an *Hospital* for the Reception of the aged Poor.”

In 1705 a part of this building was converted into a Charity School for forty poor boys and girls. They were maintained, and “duly instructed in the Knowledge and Practice of the Christian Religion; taught to read and write, with a competent skill in Arithmetick, as also to spin, sew, Knit, &c.,” and also “to *Scrible*, a new Invention whereby the different colours in the deyed Wool are delicately mix’d, without any danger of *Rawes*, &c.” A month’s poor’s assessment was raised for the expenses, and subsequently there were bequests towards its endowment; but at the commencement it was entirely dependent upon voluntary subscriptions amounting to £200 a year. For this, says Thoresby, “Lawyer Wilson condescended to be a collector with me: it cost me much time, but seemed a necessary employ at first, for the encouragement of so necessary a charity.” A seat on the north side of the Parish Church was provided for the children, who, “decently cloathed in blue,” the *Review* says, “first appeared in public March 24, 1705, the second Easter in the same year;” Thoresby, of course, here using the old style, under which the above date was the last day of the year. The institution of this school was in accordance with a movement general to the whole country at this time. Kennet, Dean and afterwards Bishop of Peterborough, preaching before Convocation in November 1710, enumerated many causes for satisfaction and thankfulness, among them,—“the Charity-Schools now opened in every part of the two Kingdoms, for teaching and clothing the children of the poor,

boys and girls, by the subscription and contribution of worthy benefactors." The Leeds school still exists, though not in its original situation, nor as originally constituted. In 1726 it was removed to the chapel which Harrison built for the inmates of his hospital, or alms-houses. In 1752 a room was added for a spinning-school, at the "cost of £76." In 1815 the school was restricted by the trustees to girls only. The present building superseded the former chapel, and the spinning-school is among other bye-gones.

While he troubled himself for the Charity School,\* Thoresby sought relief from Corporate office:—

"But I endeavoured to ease myself of another matter, and accordingly made a resignation of my place in the Corporation. The officers watching my going to church, used to serve their summons to Court, when I had much rather have been at my study than at their extravagant treats; but, after a quarter of a year's fruitless endeavour, I was constrained to continue in my station, under pretext of a useful man, whereas, I am fitter for an obscure cloister (if for anything at all), than a public station."

A couple of years later, Thoresby joined, as a member of the Corporation, in an appointment so much to his gratification, that at the time he may well have felt reconciled to his retention of office. In December 1707, the Recordership became vacant by the death of Jasper Blythman,† who had held it fifteen years; and for his successor there was chosen Thoresby's friend, confidant and adviser, Richard Thornton. "The last thing of note is," he says, in reviewing that year of his life, "that the excellent Mr. Thornton was elected Recorder *nemine*

\* "I walked to the Charity-School (pursuant to an order the last Committee) to supervise the children; was very well satisfied therewith, Lord be blessed!"—*Diary*, 15th February, 1708. "With cousin Cookson to view and measure a close designed for the Charity-school."—19th November.

† Vol. I., page 121.

*contrallicente*, and was a great and public blessing." The Royal Letters Patent confirming the choice are dated on the last day of the year, and signed by Robert Harley, then Secretary of State, and afterward Earl of Oxford. Her Majesty therein ratifies the election made by the Corporation, "having received a good character of the loyalty and ability of the said Richard Thornton."

"Feb. 1 1708. This day the Mayor, the High Sheriff of the County, and our excellent Recorder, received the Sacrament in the parish church in respect of their new offices;\* as also my cousin Kirshaw's Black, the first baptized negro that ever received the Sacrament in these parts, that good family having taken much pains to instruct him in the Christian religion."

"28. At Court, where the matter of purchase of three parts of the toll was referred to the Mayor, Recorder, three Aldermen, and as many Common-councilmen to treat with us. . . . Evening, with the Recorder at Court at the treat of the two new members, cousin Dover and Mr. J.; stayed till about ten."

Howsoever the cousinship, George Dover had been made Assistant, or Common-Councilman, in the previous month.

Then comes another passage of interest relating to the general history of the time. Encouraged by discontent in Scotland, which had been provoked by administrative mismanagement when the Act of Union took effect (on the first of May 1707), early in 1708 a French fleet left Dunkirk with the son of James the Second on board, who was to be landed

\* The High Sheriff was Henry Iveson of Black Bank, a part of Leeds which, says the *Ducatus*, was chiefly noted for his seat there. The Mayor was Rowland Mitchell, who succeeded one of the Sykes family at Hunslet Hall. When his year of office expired the following Michaelmas, Thoresby says, in a memorandum to his diary,—“No Court could be made up this day, the time appointed by charter for election of the Mayor of Leeds, the first omission since the granting of the charter, 1660.” So Rowland Mitchell continued Mayor for a second year.

at Edinburgh and assert his right to the crown. Practically absolute as we are accustomed to think Louis the Fourteenth, one of the letters of Madame de Maintenon in which this attempt is spoken of is instructive—

“Never did enterprise meet with more general approbation than the expedition to Scotland. Between ourselves, the King was the only person who had a bad opinion of it, but he yielded to public opinion; for, from the Dauphin to the meanest scullion boy in the court, and the fish women of Paris, all wished for the expedition; but Providence was against it.”

Delayed at the outset, and wholly a failure, the French commander was glad to regain Dunkirk, after a slight loss to his fleet. The above letter, to the Princess des Ursins, is dated 22nd April, and it also contains the following:—

“The English troops which had been sent into Scotland did not return, and, contrary to my usual habit, I flatter myself it is because there is a disturbance there, and that the fear we have created in England will give rise to a favourable diversion.”

Thoresby's diary for the 17th shows this to be misinformation,—

“To see the Queen's life-guards in their return from the North, where, blessed be God, there was no occasion for them, notwithstanding the threatened invasion.”

“Sent for by the High Sheriff and Corporation to the officers of the Queen's life-guards; stayed full late at the treat.”

Among other defensive measures, Parliament suspended the Habeas Corpus Act, and some precautionary arrests were made.

“May 14. With several gentlemen to see the Marquis of Huntley and other Scotch lords that are (under guard of some of the Duke of Northumberland's regiment) sent prisoners to London, in reference to the late French invasion.”

The said gentlemen probably included Sir Henry Piers, Bart., Tristernagh, Westmeath, but also living on the north side

of Leeds, who was distantly connected with Thoresby by the marriage of Martha Piers, a great-aunt, with Colonel Thomas Scot, son of Scot the regicide, and Mrs. Thoresby's uncle;\* Mr. William Nevile, of Burmantofts, the son of Gervase Nevile;† and Mr. John Milner of Pudsey, father of a physician of the same name. For the same day, they and Thoresby were till very late "fishing in the goit."

Elections came on in quick succession during the reign of Anne. The first Parliament after the Union was dissolved on the 15th of April 1708, and again the county election (though apparently with some other business) took Thoresby to York, this time travelling by coach:—

"May 17. Preparing for a journey to York. Lord grant thy favourable presence and protection from sin and all dangers. We found the way very deep, and in some places dangerous for the coach (that we walked on foot), but the Lord preserved us from all evil accidents, that we got to our journey's end in safety, blessed be God!"

"18. Walked to Bishopthorpe to wait of his Grace, by whom, and his son and chaplains, very kindly received, but found too much company, that could not have the opportunity to see the coins, &c., as I desired (though I requested it not) but was much concerned to find my Lord Archbishop so much broke with age and infirmities since I was last at Bishopthorpe. After return, visited Mr. Gyles, &c."

"19. Visited Mr. Wilcocks, saw his collection of birds, &c.; he kindly assisted me in some business. Was after at the Castle-Yard at the election of Knights for the Shire, for which there were five candidates, *viz.*, my Lord Downs, Sir William Strickland, Sir Arthur Kaye, his honour Wentworth, and

\* On the following 7th of June we have.—"Finished the perusal of Sir Henry Piers's very ingenious Description of the County of Westmeath, a valuable manuscript given me by his grandson, a Baronet of both his names, who obliged me with several kind visits."

† Vol. I., page 119.

Mr. Darcy, brother to the Earl of Holderness; had the opportunity of seeing many friends from all parts of the County."

Burnet, in speaking of the election of 1708, says,—

"The just fears and visible dangers to which the attempt of the invasion had exposed the nation produced very good effects; for the elections did, for the most part, fall on men well affected to the Government, and zealously set against the Pretender."

For Yorkshire, Viscount Downe was re-elected, but along with him Sir William Strickland of Boynton, the third Baronet, instead of Conyers Darcy. Thoresby's account of York at the time is evidence of the interest aroused; yet the election, even on this occasion, did not keep him from his favourite pursuits. He concludes his entry for the 19th,—

"Was after dinner to visit Mr. Hodgson, the charitable Lady Hewley's chaplain; found him with Mr. Stockdale (a member of Parliament),\* at Dr. Colton's; heard several strange matters from him. After, visited Mrs. Todd and Mrs. Hickson and Hawke. Evening at inn, crowded with vast multitudes."

"20. So crowded in the inn that could have no opportunity for private prayer, but happily found in my walks one church open, where I retired; afterwards viewed the monuments and inscriptions; then with Mr. Empson upon administration account; visited the pious Dr. Fall,† with whom dined; met with Sir Godfrey Copley and other friends of the Royal Society, in the Castle Yard, as Mr. Molesworth and Mr. Arthington. After reading Mr. Todd's memoirs, father and son, and Mr. Gunter's to Mrs. Todd, made some additions from old papers and manuscripts, &c. Evening, crowded at the inn, where most lay three in a bed, but got private lodgings."

"21. After prayers at the Minster, was at Mr. Fothergil's, viewing ancient manuscripts and curiosities; then with Mr. Townley; Mr. Ellis, the benefactor, who has promised me to give

\* For Knarcsborough.

† Precentor of York Minster.

60% to our charity-school;\* also, had much satisfactory discourse with the pious old gentleman (aged 81); at church. Invited by my kind friend Mr. Molesworth to dine with him, had the Earl of Holderness's company, Sir Ralph Blacket,† Mr. Topham and Mr. Molesworth, jun., since Envoy for her Majesty at the Great Duke of Tuscany's. Was after at the Castle Yard, and walking with Sir Henry Piers to show him the city."

"22. Rose between three and four, the coach being hasted by Captain Crome (whose company we had) upon the Queen's business, that we got to Leeds by noon; blessed be God for mercies to me and my poor family."

On the 11th of July following this election, Marlborough won the battle of Oudenarde; defeating the army under the Duke of Burgundy, heir-apparent of France, and the famous Marshal the Duke of Vendome, although occupying a well-chosen position. "The humble Address of the Mayor, Aldermen and Burgesses of the Borough of *Leeds* in the County of *York*" upon this victory was presented to Her Majesty on the last day of August, by the Duke of Somerset,‡ as announced in the *Gazette* next published. The 19th of August was the Thanksgiving Day appointed by Proclamation; but the 27th of November is the date of the following in Thoresby's diary,— "Evening, with the High Sheriff (shortly to be elected Mayor)§ Recorder and Corporation, at the public rejoicing for the great

\* A list of donations to this school in the Appendix to the *Ducatus* commences,— "An. 1708. Mr. George Ellis, of Brampton, Gent., gave 50*l.*"

† Of Newby Hall, which he built. Sir Christopher Wren designed it, and also chose the site. In July 1693, Thoresby and his partner Ibbetson rode from Copgrove, "two miles further to see Sir Edward Blacket's stately house, which is indeed a most noble fabrick, to which are adjoined very curious gardens, with delicate statues, and pleasant walks, &c."

‡ This was the sixth Duke, Charles, known as the "proud Duke of Somerset." He was Queen Anne's Master of the Horse.

§ Iveson was elected Mayor when Rowland Mitchell's second year ended, Michaelmas Day 1709; and Thoresby was present when he took the oaths at a Court on the 10th of October.



victory of the Duke of Marlborough in Flanders." These rejoicings had been deferred to an unfortunate season, for little more than a fortnight before was the funeral of Her Majesty's consort, Prince George of Denmark, preceded by an order for general mourning.

Again, Thoresby had to attend one of the feasts which he so much disliked, and not only that, but to pay his share of the expenses.

"30 April 1709. Afternoon taken up in attending the Corporation in their formalities to receive the Judge, Baron Price, with whom spent rest of the day and evening, at the expense of the Corporation (not the town, as some unworthily surmise)."

This refutation of a charge that the Corporation's treats were at the cost of the public is sustained by an entry in the Court Books later in the same year. Marlborough's defeat of the French near Mons, now known as the battle of Malplaquet, caused another Thanksgiving Day on the 22nd of November 1709; when the Corporation, having attended service at the Parish Church, agreed to "meet againe att Mrs. Owen's att 5 of the Clocke of the Evening to drink to her Ma<sup>ties</sup> health and further good success." But this was to be done at the "Corporac'on's charge." It is very likely, with Thoresby's straitened means, that the expense entailed by so much festivity, for which he himself had so little relish, increased his distaste for municipal office. Though he had done with business and the embarrassments which his brother furnished, he had not done with annoyance in money matters. This very year he lost much of an afternoon appealing against "land-tax, which the perverseness of a neighbour had advanced, though houses empty;" and he had still more serious and vexatious trouble in connection with the sale of tolls, before spoken of, to the Corporation. His account is:—

"December 23. When at family prayer in the morning was disturbed with the knocking of the bailiff, who at Hugh Sleigh's suit arrested me, and said he had a positive order to carry me to gaol if I gave not a three score pound bail bond, which I refused to do, not owing him a penny, which base act shows the most abominable ingratitude, I having lost the interest of 80*l.* for twelve months, which the Corporation was then willing to pay me for my own share in the tolls, purely in his favour, who had not else, as is owned on all hands, even got a groat for his share, if cousin Wilson and I had closed with them for ours without him; and now, for a supposed promise of dividing the monies and bond, he sues me with the utmost violence and malice, though I was so far from making such a promise, that when it was first proposed I declared against it, lest it should involve me in a suit with the Corporation, who were fully satisfied with my title and cousin Wilson's, but had demurred so long upon Sleigh's, who being a . . . attorney, employs his cunning so ungratefully against his benefactor. The bailiff indeed was civil, and upon my parole allowed me, when the bell tolled, to go to church according to my custom. This affair, and consulting my constant and dear friend the Recorder, took up the rest of the day.

"24. Again at dear Mr. Thornton's; at church; received a hasty demand from my gaoler either to go immediately to prison, or give 60*l.* bail, which at my dearest dear's request and tears I did."\*

At a Court held on the 11th of January 1710, "we got a good order passed to avoid extravagance," says Thoresby; but

\* Notwithstanding this demand upon him, Thoresby, at the beginning of January, engaged to subscribe a guinea a year for three years to the Charity School, for which there had just been a collection at church amounting to £15 3*s.* 3*d.* In this sum, Thoresby tells us, "were two guineas, supposed to be given by Milner and Mr. Thornton, both being eminent for their charity." These being notable enough to cause speculation as to the donors, Thoresby's subscription, his means considered, well entitles him to credit for benevolent liberality. Only three weeks afterward, we find him economising by a sacrifice of daylight,—“All day attending workmen, naking up windows, to prevent the extremity of an unequal tax, that would else equal me in payment with the greatest nobleman.”

whether in regard to themselves or the borough generally is not explained. Some months after, he took part in the promotion of public improvements. Near the end of James the First's reign, a Town Hall, or Moot Hall, as it was called down to the present century, was built in the middle of the principal street, and there the Justices held their sittings. It appears from the *Ducatus*, that Thoresby's father proposed its rebuilding on pillars and arches, and that Lady Danby, widow of the Mayor nominated by the second Charter of Incorporation, offered a considerable sum towards the cost. The offer was suffered to pass; but in 1710 the foundation of a new front was laid, and before the *Ducatus* was finished, Thoresby, who in the first part had lamented that, instead of the stately *Comitium* which they might have had, conveniency only was pretended to, could describe in an Addenda,—“The Front of fine wrought Stone upon Columns and Arches, with rustic Coins and Tabling.” In his Diary he relates that simultaneously with the laying of the foundation there were “the engines exercised,” &c. ;\* and under the same date, the 12th of August, that he was “with the Corporation about public concerns, consulting upon erecting a hall for the white cloths, &c.” On the 14th,—

“Rode with the Mayor, cousin Milner, and others, to my Lord Irwin, about the erection of a hall for the white cloths in Kirkgate, to prevent the damage to this town by one lately erected at Wakefield, with design to engross that affair, which is computed to bring about one hundred tradesmen every

\* Next year, Thoresby wrote,—“I ought to take notice of the mercy of God to this town, in a timely discovery of a fire begun in a chandler's house, that might have endangered, at least, that part of the town, but was happily extinguished by the engine.” This is dated on the 17th of November 1711, and it continues,—“This reminds me of a sad calamity befell Southwell, in the neighbouring County of Nottingham, the very last week, when the famous Cathedral there was fired by lightening, about ten in the evening, of the 5th of November, and burnt till eight the next morning, that all was entirely consumed; many censure it as a judgment for not having had any divine service there that day, which I cannot believe.”

market-day to this town, which that would utterly prevent for the future if permitted. His Lordship gave all the encouragement imaginable."

This was the third Viscount Irwin, who inherited Temple-Newsome and the Manor of Leeds—Kirkgate, by descent from their purchaser, Sir Arthur Ingram. With his concurrence, a title was obtained to "an old ruinous Hospital [alms-houses] of an uncertain Tenure and Foundation," which stood adjoining a former chantry, supposed by Thoresby to be one founded in 1430 by the then Vicar of Leeds. It was in Kirkgate, below the old Vicarage, but on the other side of the street; and there the new "Hall for White Cloths was erected at near a Thousand Pounds Charge by certain Merchants and Tradesmen in Town."\* The *Ducatus* describes it; and in another part gives a very interesting account of the general market of the town, formerly deferred until the ringing of a bell at Thoresby's old school-house put an end to the sale of cloth. The market for coloured cloths continued in the open street, between the Moot Hall and the Bridge, until the building of another hall for them in 1758.

While these works were in progress, and the Free Grammar School used instead of the Moot Hall† for Sessions and Manor Courts, the Recorder of Leeds died, Thoresby's great friend, Richard Thornton, at the age of 52.

"Sep. 27 1710. Much concerned for the indisposition of my dear friends, the Recorder and cousin Cookson; then sur-

\* This Hall opened on the 22nd of May 1711, and doubtless much thought of at the time, within sixty-five years was abandoned for a new one nearer to the Calls, and then pulled down. And this second Hall, being of late years required by the North Eastern Railway Company, the white cloth market had again to migrate to its present home, on a portion of the old Infirmary gardens.

† Sessions were first held in the new Hall on the 10th January 1711, and Thoresby took it as a good omen, when informed by the Clerk of the Peace that "he had not for many years known so considerable a Sessions, there being as much business as at some Assizes.

prised with news of one of the workmen being slain,\* and another wounded, by the fall of some stones, as taking down the scaffold from the new erected town house."

"28. Somewhat indisposed; my dear wife blamed a too affectionate concern for my dear friend's illness as the cause, and I must own I am heartily affected, but desire a submissive heart."

"Oct. 2 to 5. To visit dear Mr. Thornton; was much affected with his weakness."

"6. With the three doctors at dear Mr. Thornton's, under great weakness. To speak to Dr. Richardson† and other Justices at the Free School, where the Sessions was kept (the Town-hall being not finished), by the Justices for the West Riding, as on Wednesday it had been there for this borough. Was after with Mr. Calverley and Mr. Fawkes, but stayed not, being deeply concerned for my dear friend, who seems to be on the confines of eternity. Lord, grant him an easy and comfortable passage into a blessed immortality! Endeavoured in private and family prayer to wrestle in his behalf. He died this evening at forty-five minutes past eight, as Dr. Richardson afterwards told me. The Lord sanctify this severe loss to his surviving friends!"

"7. I went to the house of mourning, to weep over the remains of my dearest friend, which were lovely even after death, the encounter with the King of terrors having not wholly deprived him of his native smiles, the only countenance in whom anything of that nature appeared, there being a general sadness upon the faces of all persons, not there only but elsewhere, the justices, clergy, commonalty, indeed the most general lamentation that ever I knew. And," Thoresby continues, addressing his younger son, "if my dear child Richard live to read these hints, let him endeavour to imitate the virtues of

\* "Slain" was commonly used at this time in case of death by accident, not only when one person was killed by another.

† Richard Richardson, M.D. and F.R.S., of North Bierley. There is a letter from him, written 11 May 1702, on his return home from London, thanking Thoresby for his "commendatory letters to Dr. Sloane and Dr. Woodward."

his surety, that he may, like him, be useful and amiable in life, and then he may expect to be happy and lamented at death, as his grandfather Thoresby and godfather Thornton were, above most men in their generations."

"The Great Court Leet and Court Baron" held in the Free School on the 9th, might call Thoresby into public as a Lord of the Manor, in the midst of his private sorrow. On the 11th he writes,—

"Hasted to the house of mourning, took a doleful leave of the remains of my dear friend; then officiated (as requested) in delivering gloves, scarfs, &c., to the nobility and gentry that were designed to support the pall, others being served below stairs."

Mr. Thornton was buried at St. John's, where a marble monument to him was erected. Thoresby was concerned in the ordering of this monument. He had already given a commission for one which, with his now limited means and great demands upon them, and in the midst of all his public and private occupation he was about to place in the Parish Church to the memory of his father.

"25th July 1710. With Mr. Carpenter about the monument for my dearest father; left his picture and a model with him." (This was at York).

"19 April 1711. With Mr. Carpenter, beginning the model of a bust for my honoured father's monument."

"22 May. . . . with Madam Thornton about the monument for one of the best of men."

"28 . . to York; went to Mr. Carpenter's about the monument; lodged there."

"2 June. . . . with Mr. Archdeacon Pearson, who kindly obliged me with an epitaph for the monument."

On the 10th of July Thoresby had Mr. Carpenter at dinner in Leeds; and on the 3rd of March 1712, "was all day at church, with Mr. Carpenter, setting up a monument for my honoured and dear father."

It is not clear which of the two monuments is spoken of on the 28th of May and the 2nd of June. The *Ducatus* distinctly says that the Latin epitaph on Mr. Thornton's monument was "composed by the Rev. Dr Pearson, Chancellor of York," an office held by the Archdeacon, who in his letters calls Mr. Thornton "Cousin."\* And it is probable that he gave his aid with the inscription, also Latin, cut upon the monument to John Thoresby; in short, that the same hand wrote the inscriptions, and the same sculptor carved the monuments, about the same time, for Thoresby's father and for his dearest friend. Both monuments still exist, the former in the ante-chapel of the re-built Parish Church, Mr. Thornton's at St. John's; and there are engravings of both in the *Ducatus*.

On the day after Mr. Thornton's funeral a new Recorder was elected, and the choice of the Corporation fell upon the son of Thoresby's deceased brother-in-law Wilson:—

"Aug. 12. At a full court, where my nephew Wilson was, by a great majority of votes (twenty-four in twenty-nine), elected to succeed my late dear friend, Mr. Thornton, as Recorder of this borough. Was constrained to stay too late, and subscribe a paper about the new seats for the Common Council adjoining to that of the Aldermen."

This happened co-incidentally with another general election, and at a season of great political excitement. A year back, there had been changes in the Ministry which seemed to confirm the Whigs in power; but the impeachment of Dr. Sacheverell, of St. Saviour's, Southwark, on the publication of his thenceforward famous Sermons at the Derby Assizes and before the Lord Mayor of London, raised a storm throughout the country which eventually for a time overthrew the Whig party altogether. During

\* They had married cousins. Mrs. Thornton was the daughter of Christopher Watkinson, Mayor of Leeds in 1668; Mrs. Pearson was the daughter of his brother, Henry Watkinson, LL.D., predecessor of his son-in-law in the office of Chancellor.

the Sacheverell debates in the House of Commons the two members for Yorkshire had taken opposite sides, Viscount Downe being in favour of the Doctor, Sir William Strickland against him. The House of Lords gave judgment against Sacheverell on the 23rd of March 1710; Parliament was prorogued on the 5th of April, and dissolved on the 21st of September, writs for a new one being issued within five days. But already the Whig Ministry under Godolphin had been dismissed by the Queen, and a Tory Ministry had succeeded; nominally under Earl Paulet, but practically under Harley, soon afterward made Earl of Oxford, and who next year took Paulet's office of Lord High Treasurer. This political crisis descended far below Ministerial office and the Houses of Parliament.

Among the letters from Thoresby to the Rev. John Strype, in the British Museum, there is one \* dated Leeds, 16th October 1710, four days after the election of the new Recorder, in which there is this passage,—

“This wretched ferment still continues. Mr. Lowther is thrown out at Pontefract† (though 'tis said by foul play, as my cousin Lee was also from being Mayor there), and it's doubtful Sir William Strickland will have the same fate in the County. We have succeeded better (as to the Recordership) in this town, and got in my nephew Wilson to be Recorder by a great majority of votes: the opponent having but 5. Yet I am told to my face, that if he had but 2 votes he shall stand: because of the present ferment they hope to prevail for the Royal approbation; by making a representation as false as it is scandalous, to the Court, as though the Corporation was desperately Whiggish. Whereas there is but one person, or 2 at the most, that

\* Additional M.S.S. 5,852.

† William Lowther, Esq., M.P. for Pontefract, was Sacheverell's opponent, his colleague, Sir John Bland, Bart., taking the other side. A “Complete History” of the Sacheverell Trial, published in 1710, gives a list of the House of Commons, distinguishing the two parties. Bland was re-elected, Lowther replaced by Robert Frank.



ever go, so much as occasionally, to the meetings. But whoever is not a Sacheverelite, is so reputed: and they cannot bear that the governing part of the town, as well as the generality of the Commoners, should be moderate.

"The last post brought me a kind L<sup>r</sup>. from the Bp. of Carlisle, who writes that the Knights of the Shires for Cumberland and Westmoreland continue the same; but the private boroughs are all in a ferment, like my Lord Thomond's cocks."

The passage in Bishop Nicholson's letter, which is published in the Correspondence, and dated Oct. 9th, runs thus:—

"Your last letter (of Aug. 11) has laid a long time by me unacknowledged; much longer than any of so kind a friend have used to do. We have been so exceedingly dinned and alarmed of late with exchanges of hands in the administration of the Government, that all eyes have been looking that way, and no man has been at leisure to attend correspondences about matters of a lower form. Through all these amusements I am resolved to break; though my neighbourhood (like the rest of the kingdom) is pretty much in a ferment, about our approaching elections. In this we differ from you in Yorkshire; that our Knights of the Shires (for both Cumberland and Westmoreland) continue the same without struggle. The only contests are in Corporations; where all that fight are Lord Thomond's cocks."

Gilfrid Lawson, Member for Cumberland, had supported Sacheverell; the Member for Carlisle and Cockermouth, one of whom had been Attorney-General, and other two among the managers of the trial on behalf of the Commons, were against him. The two Members for Westmoreland had taken opposite sides, and also those for Appleby, one of them a manager. The Yorkshire election was fixed for the 19th of October; and, as Bishop Nicholson seems to have known beforehand, there was a contest:—

"Attended the Mayor and Corporation to York, where most gave one vote for Sir William Strickland, and the other, either for Lord Downe or Sir Arthur Kaye; many others gave single votes for the first, who yet, by the joining of the other two, was vastly outdone."

Sir Arthur Kaye, Bart., whose father had formerly represented the County, took the place of Sir William Strickland, and he and Lord Downe continued Members for Yorkshire until Sir Arthur's death in January 1727, five months before that of George the First.

"Oct. 20. . . . Went with Mr. Archdeacon Pearson and Lady to Bishopthorpe, where most kindly received by his Grace, notwithstanding the endeavours of some furiosos to misrepresent me.\* . . . Spent the evening at Lady Perrot's with the late Mayor of Hull,† the parson, and other relations, but scarce anywhere without unhappy disputes, even amongst nearest relations, about the wretched distinctions betwixt high and low Church."

"21. . . . got just in time for Cousin Milner's coach. We stayed a little at Tadcaster, and got home in good time, blessed be God for mercy! was much concerned for the intemperate heat of some indiscreet persons, to put the softest construction that is possible upon the rude affronts that had been put upon the Mayor and other Magistrates yesterday, and upon our company to-day. Lord, heal all the breaches of this sinful and divided nation!"

Another reference to the local animosities consequent upon the political ferment appears under the date Sunday, the 17th of December.

\* Archbishop Sharp was one of the minority of Fifty-two in the House of Lords who voted Sacheverell not guilty. The majority numbered Sixty-nine. The misrepresentations of which Thoresby here speaks are further alluded to in a letter of the Bishop of Carlisle's, written two months later:—"Your concern in your letter to Mr. Hearne about the censures passed on you, in relation to your conduct in the Yorkshire election, is very surprising to me. I little imagined that you would so far regard the good or ill opinion of men under the influences of the spirit of riot. We want only a short fit of frosty weather to put an entire end to the calentures of the last summer; and (for my own part) I heartily pray, that we may not shortly fall upon the contrary extreme, in even condemning and discouraging that zeal for the interests of the Established Church, which is according to knowledge: our eyes will either shortly open, or (which God forbid!) we are sleeping our last."

† Andrew Perrot had been elected Mayor of Hull in 1708, and he again filled the office in 1721. He was the son of Lady Perrot, thus entitled from her husband having been Lord Mayor of York; a dignity to which another of her sons also attained.

“The vicar made an excellent sermon, and too suitable for the piteous state of this divided town. Afterwards at Cousin Milner’s request was with him to speak to the Vicar; was much concerned to see him so deeply affected for an unjust calumny cast upon him by the malice of unreasonable men; the Vicar promised to transcribe the sermon for his satisfaction, and half yielded to its publication, which is too seasonable to this sinful distracted nation as well as town, and particularly for the necessary vindication of this worthy magistrate, who in this exigence discovered his will to us, wherein he has left 400*l.* to the Charity School, or that failing, 10*l.* per annum to the poor, and the other moiety to the lecturer of the old church, which shows his sincere affection to that church, of which the present ferment will not admit us to be members. Lord, heal our breaches in thy due time.”

The conclusion of a letter to Thoresby from the Bishop of Carlisle, the previous 20th of November, evidently concerns the same thing,—

“Your Cousin Milner is indeed a great ornament (as well as a benefactor) to the town of Leeds, and will be remembered with honour, when the chief of those that now condemn him are forgotten. I wish there were more of your neighbours that could give such evidence, as he has done, of a sound judgement and useful knowledge of men and things.

“The extraordinary ferment that is now in the kingdom cannot (in the common course of nature) be of any long continuance; but we must, ere we are much older, return to our senses. It is a woeful prospect that we have of an establishment, if none are churchmen but those that (in their hearts and consciences) prefer Queen Elizabeth’s wholesome severities to Queen Anne’s more wholesome moderation.”

It appears that Thoresby had written about the disputes in Leeds to Archbishop Sharp, one of whose letters, of 12th December, commences,—

“I received your two letters. As for the latter, relating to the Corporation of Leeds, I need say nothing, having by the last

post, wrote to Mr. Killingbeck about that affair." Then giving Thoresby some information for the purpose of his history, the Archbishop concludes with,—“I heartily wish all happiness to the Corporation, and am, with sincere respects to them and you, Sir, your affectionate friend, Jo. Ebor.”

During this time of hot party contention Thoresby himself evinced conscientious, discriminating forbearance in a minor question which came under his influence. In 1653, when Puritanism and Cromwell ruled church and state, three closes in Woodhouse of the yearly rent of Six Pounds ten shillings were given for the Poor of Leeds, and “for poor Children’s Learning,” by a gentlewoman of Little Woodhouse, whom Thoresby in his *Ducatus* calls “the pious and charitable Madam Isabel Leighton.” She was the daughter of Sir William Musgrave of Ireby, Cumberland, and had outlived three husbands, a Calverley, a Hopton, and lastly Dr. Alexander Leighton, father of Robert Leighton, Archbishop of Glasgow. In 1710 a vacancy occurred in the Trust which had been created under such different auspices from those prevailing, and Thoresby says,—

“I had an opportunity of diverting the Charity to what some may think, not only more legal but more universal, by electing Trustees of a different denomination, and thought once of choosing Alderman Milner and cousin Wilson,\* our new Recorder, who would, no doubt, have discharged the trust as faithfully as any; but considering the founder’s will and strict charge, I think it justice and honesty to continue to those that succeed in the same communion she was a stated member of.”

Thoresby wrote out the deeds appointing for the new Trustee Mr. Oates, a Leeds merchant, related to the Fentons of Hunslet.†

\* Nephew Wilson.

† Joseph Oates, son of Josias Oates of Chickenley near Dewsbury, who had estates there. Both father and son married twice. The two wives of the father were both Fentons (not sisters); the son married first a Fenton, secondly, Mary Ibbetson, the granddaughter of Thoresby’s partner. On his

The threat that the new election of Recorder should not stand was made good. Wilson's rival was another of Thoresby's many relatives, "Cousin Walker," of Headingley, whose grandfather had been killed serving Charles the First; and Thoresby's late fishing companion Nevile, who now succeeded Mr. Iveson as High Sheriff, was the foremost in overthrowing the choice of the Corporation:—

"9 March 1711. Diverted by seeing Mr. Nevile, the High Sheriff of the County, attended by many gentlemen and near one hundred liveries, pass by for York; at their entrance to York, above two hundred and thirty liveries."

"29. At court, where my Cousin Walker, producing the Queen's Patent, under the broad seal of Great Britain, was sworn Recorder, in place of my late dearest friend, Richard Thornton, Esquire: my nephew Wilson was elected by the Corporation, but by the misrepresentation of some underhand dealers (advantaged by the present ferment in the nation) could not obtain the Royal fiat, but had a retaining fee from the Corporation given him last night, as council in all cases relating thereto."

In the *Review* Thoresby gives this further explanation,—

"William Nevile, Esq., the High Sheriff, under the name of the Church, misrepresented the magistrates as Whigs to the Duke of Leeds, and consequently to her Majesty: so that the Royal fiat was recalled, and a person altogether insufficient, but more to their purpose, was appointed."

Yet in the *Ducatus* he calls Mr. Walker "our worthy Recorder." The *Review* continues,—

"I should not have mentioned things of this nature, but that at the request of the Mayor, Alderman Milner, and other

death, in 1729, Joseph Oates was buried at St. John's; but many of his descendants were laid in the chapel yard of Mill Hill, and one of his granddaughters became wife of a minister of that chapel, the Rev. William Wood, F.L.S. In Whitaker's *Loidis* there is a pedigree of this family, still surviving at Leeds.

magistrates, I was employed to write in just vindication of the Corporation to some persons of honour.”\*

Perhaps one of the letters was that to the Archbishop before mentioned.

All this unpleasantness and party squabbling did not prevent the “treats” of the Corporation. On the 13th of April, Thoresby was in the “evening till very late (if not early), with the Justices and Lawyers, at a treat at Cousin Milner’s.” It had been a Court day, and there was another on the 28th.

“At Court, where Cousin Atkinson was elected Alderman; he treated last week as Common-Councilman, this as Alderman, and a week after as Justice of North Riding.”

If there be virtue in the injunction, “Gentlemen, dine together!” discord ought soon to have vanished from the Corporation of Leeds at that day. But the following extracts from Thoresby’s diary do not indicate an immediate restoration to amity:—

“30 June. Sent for to Court, where was indecent brawlings between two opposite parties: in this matter I forsook (and I fear disobliged) some of my old friends, thinking it unreasonable, after about twenty years’ intermission, to fine a gentleman for his resignation; the case was Mr. Pawson’s; we were twenty four in Court, ten voted to fine him, the rest either blanks or in express words no fine.

“6 Aug. Afternoon, with Lords of the Manor and at the Sessions, where the Vicar in open Court complained to the Mayor, that Russell, one of his officers, lived in adultery, which his conscience would not suffer him to permit without complaint.”

\* At this time Mr. Milner bought Nun Appleton and the Manor of Bolton Percy. On the 4th of April, Thoresby rode with him “to see his noble purchase”; and he describes the old house of Lord Fairfax, the General, about to be pulled down. Archdeacon Pearson, who held the rectory of Bolton Percy, and had “erected there a very curious parsonage house at the charge of 800*l.*,” entertained them.

“31. At the Court, where cousin Cookson\* was elected alderman (had twenty three of twenty five votes in court, to receive him again into Corporation after his resignation, though this so offended a late member, who in full expectation of the place, had ordered a treat, that he threw in his resignation).”

On the 29th of September, “Cousin Atkinson” was elected Mayor. On the 18th of April 1712, Thoresby, at York, went with “Mr. Nevile, Cousin Cookson, and others of the Grand Jury, to see a reputed witch, who though aged, could not repeat the Lord’s Prayer; a fit instrument for Satan.” And on the 23rd of April came “Cousin Cookson’s treat as alderman (the first that was made at the new White-cloth-hall).” And this year, 1712, in which the negotiations went on that ended in the Peace of Utrecht, brought some degree of peace to Leeds and its Corporation, by an union of contending parties in an address to the Queen.

Thoresby, then in London, relates on the 6th of June 1712,—

“Walked to Westminster; and by my Lord Archbishop of York’s means, got placed so conveniently, that we saw the Queen upon the throne, and many of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, in their Parliamentary robes, and came very early to the notice of her Majesty’s speech concerning the Peace, which occasioned fires, illuminations, &c., in the City, as we found on our return from Mr. Wanley’s,” where after leaving the House of Lords they had remained “too late.”

It was the occasion, historically memorable, when Queen Anne visited her Parliament during the session to communicate in person the terms on which it was contemplated to conclude peace with Louis the Fourteenth. Addresses in reply (the subject of much debate, proposed amendment, and, in the Lords, protest), were voted in Parliament; and addresses from outside

\* William Cookson, who had married Susannah Idle, daughter of Thoresby’s Uncle, Michael Idle.

Parliament followed, which Burnet\* denounces,—“nothing,” says the Whig Prelate, “could break thro’ that insensibility which had stupified the people. A new set of addresses ran about, full of gross flattery, magnifying the present conduct, with severe reflections on the former Ministry,” &c. These addresses included one from Leeds, of which Thoresby speaks much more favourably :—

“28 June. . . at the request of cousin Cookson (the Alderman) went with the Recorder and Mr. John Cookson to Barnet, to meet the Mayor of Leeds (cousin Atkinson); see the copy of the address to Her Majesty which we subscribed, being handsomely drawn up and all party matters avoided, so that high and low† subscribed it at Leeds, as well as here.” At this time Thoresby had demands enough upon his time and purse, and he concludes :—“but this occasioned the expense of too much time and money, my share of Coach-hire and expenses amounting to above 14s.”

The address ran thus :—

“To the Queen’s Most Excellent Majesty.

“The Humble Address of the Mayor, Recorder, Aldermen, Common-Council, Clergy, Gentlemen, Merchants, and other Principal Inhabitants of the Town and Borough of Leeds, in the West-Riding of the County of York.”

“Most Gracious Sovereign!

“With all Humility and Satisfaction, we own it to be the undoubted Right and Prerogative of the Crown to make Peace and War, and willingly concur with our Representatives in Parliament, in returning our hearty Thanks to your Majesty, for your great condescension, in laying before your People the Terms upon which Peace may be made.

\* Burnet gives the *fifth* of June as the date of the Queen’s communication, but the Lords’ Journals and the Gazette agree with Thoresby. Parliament was prorogued on the 21st.

† High and Low Church.



"Your good Subjects are not insensible of the Difficulties which must attend the settling an Affair of this Consequence, neither were we surprised to hear, that there have been artful Contrivances to obstruct your Gracious Intentions, but as none of these would move your Majesty from a steady pursuit of so good a Work, so neither did they create any Diffidence in us, when we considered that the Piety and Prudence of that Queen, whom God has always so particularly distinguished with his Blessings, and the Vigilance and Integrity of those whom your Majesty in your Princely Wisdom is pleased to employ.

"Your Majesty's principal Regard for the security and continuance of the Protestant Succession, Your tender Care and Concern for the Interest of your own Subjects, and the reasonable Satisfaction which you propose for all your Allies; as they are all the advantages we could hope for, so the obtaining of them must be a good Occasion of Joy to every Loyal, Well-Minded Englishman.

"These are Blessings which all your Majesty's Subjects must share in; but we, in a particular Manner, of the Populous and Trading Borough, having already found the good Effects of them, in the sensible Increase of our Trade, since the first commencement of our happy Negotiation.

"May God Almighty enable you to bring this great Undertaking to a speedy and successful Issue; may all your Subjects show their Obedience, by a hearty concurrence with Your Majesty, and may You and Your People long enjoy the happy Effects of a lasting Peace."

This address was published in the *Gazette* of the 8th of July, where it is said,—“The following Humble Address from the Borough of *Leeds* was presented to Her Majesty by *John Atkinson Esq.*, Mayor, being introduced by His Grace the Duke of Leeds.” To resume Thoresby's Diary,—

"29 June. Sunday. . . . The Lecturer preached well in the afternoon; but I was too heavy, though I was afraid of being so, that I could not so much as taste any liquor but the small beer. I afterwards walked to Gray's Inn, to know the

result of the Duke of Leeds about the Leeds address, by the Recorder, who confessed they seem startled about Dunkirk's not being delivered; \* the Lord direct the public concerns of the nation."

"2. July. . . after dinner, at Mr. Atkinson's; received a message from the Mayor, whom I attended to the Duke of Leeds, who introduced us into her Majesty's presence, at Kensington, where the Mayor delivered the Leeds address; † after which, his Grace told the Queen he could assure her Majesty it came from a populous and loyal Corporation, that was both willing and able to assist her Majesty, if there was occasion, which he hoped there never would be. The Queen received it very kindly, looked very pleasantly, cast her eye (as was observed) upon every person, and curtsied. We left the Duke there, but returned in the High Sheriff's coach to Sir Arthur Kaye's, who with Sir Bryan Stapleton, accompanied us; ‡ from Sir Arthur's we went to the Tavern to drink her Majesty's health, and stayed full late, that read little."

On the 4th, Thoresby was "sent for by the Mayor of Leeds and Mr. C. about printing the Address."

Although Dr. Sacheverell was under suspension from preaching for the term of three years, he was at liberty to read

\* Dunkirk was handed over to a British garrison early in July, and the demolition of its fortifications was a condition of the Treaty of Utrecht. Thoresby says on the 10th of July,—“I hasted to write news into the Country of Dunkirk's being actually delivered to the English, for which there were such illuminations in the evening as I had never seen before.” An address to the Queen from the West-Riding Justices, Grand Jury and other Gentlemen, at the General Quarter Sessions held in Bradford on the 17th of July, contained the following:—“And it is no small addition to our Joy that your Majesty's Judgment of Your Enemies sincere Intentions has been confirmed by his giving up Dunkirk, the strongest Fortress and Bulwark of his Kingdom into your Majesty's hands.” This address was presented a month later than the Leeds one, by Robert Benson, Chancellor of the Exchequer, who was member of Parliament for the City of York.

† Thoresby's appearance before Queen Anne on this occasion, was about three months after Dr. Johnson, then a child under three years old, had been touched by her for the Evil.

‡ Sir Bryan Stapleton of Myton, in the North-Riding of Yorkshire, married the sister of Sir Arthur Kaye. The Duke of Leeds died before the month was out, on the 26th, and was the subject of a post-mortem examination.

prayers; and one Sunday during this stay in London Thoresby visited his church,—

“Viewed the monuments (amongst which a curious one for our Countryman Gower, the then celebrated poet) before divine service, which was gracefully read by the noted Dr. Sacheverel, who his greatest enemies must own to be a good like naught, if he be one; Mr. . . . (his brother in judgement as well as complexion) from that of the Apostles rebuke, showed the necessity of reproof even of superiors in a latitudinarian age.”

In contrast with this, Thoresby heard a sermon from Calamy, which he thought bore too hard upon those who had left the Nonconformists; and he went intending to hear, but was prevented, Hoadly, the very opposite of Sacheverell, whose attack upon two sermons preached by Ofspring Blackall, Queen Anne's Chaplain, and Bishop of Exeter, had been the occasion of a war of pamphlets. There were some holding high Ecclesiastical office who at this time took a disponding view of public affairs; Bishop Fowler, who succeeded the Non-juror Frampton in the See of Gloucester, for one:—

“Took leave of the very aged and pious Bishop of Gloucester, who gave me his memoirs of Queen Mary, of which he has printed this second edition purposely to bear his testimony to the truth, and against the present humour of the age, of which he spoke with the greatest freedom. But I was much concerned at his melancholy apprehension of affairs, his Lordship thinking that Popery and Slavery are coming in upon us, that we are undone, undone; the like dismal apprehensions two others of that Right Reverend order I visited since I came to Town, seem to be of. The Lord avert deserved judgements upon an ungrateful nation for former deliverances!”

In the middle of the following September, a vacancy was made in the Leeds Corporation by the death of John Rontree, Alderman and Ex-Mayor, and Thoresby was much disturbed by the information that it was proposed to raise him to this higher position. The next day, and it was Sunday,—

"Morning, could not sleep; was much concerned at what Mr. Milner told me last night, about the Corporation's design to elect me to supply a late vacancy, which I earnestly and heartily desired his assistance to prevent." On the Tuesday he was with Alderman Milner again, and "got the stream diverted."

On the ensuing Michaelmas Day, the new Mayor chosen was his "cousin" William Cookson; and the election of aldermen took place on the same occasion. Thoresby had been until three in the afternoon "assisting Lords of Manor collecting fee-farm rents;" and he continues,—

"At five at Court, where too much contention was evident, though I gave my vote for Wm. Neville, Esq., to be an Alderman, thinking it an honour to the place I am writing the history of, her Majesty having thought fit to make him High Sheriff of the County and Justice of Peace; yet I cannot so far comply with that party, as to think that fifteen votes should preponderate seventeen, directly opposite to the minutes in the Court Book, that Mr. S. P. was elected by majority of votes. I afterwards was with them at the treat, but came away with the Vicar and Clergy in good time."

The new Alderman was named Solomon Pollard. It is manifest that all were not so forgiving as Thoresby, and did not forget the aspersion cast upon their loyalty by the recent High Sheriff, though he had been made Councilman early in the year. After all Neville was elected Alderman, in the following January; but he did not long wear the honour. Before leaving church on the 22nd of April 1713, where he was at "the funeral of a poor neighbour," Thoresby heard "the passing bell tolled for Alderman Neville, late high sheriff of the county."\* He was the eldest of nine sons, and had seven sisters; two of his brothers were in Orders, and preached before the Judges in the year of his shrievalty—Gervase, Vicar

\* The next day Thoresby went "to see the lifeless corpse of one who was lately one of the properest [most] comely gentlemen in these parts, lately fresh and flourishing, now withered, dead and dry."

of Bingley, and Cavendish, Fellow of University College, Oxford. His mother, widow of Gervase Nevile, and one "of the Honourable family of Cavendish," died three months before him. January 19, 1713,—“Madam Nevile was this day buried with great state.”\*

Two other deaths occurred near the end of 1712; Alderman Gibson, and “another ancient member of the Corporation, Domine Hunter.” “Yet all this,” wrote Thoresby, “does not mortify me as it ought, but that I was too much moved at Mr. . . . ’s talking of my election to an office they are sensible I am as unwilling to accept of as unfit to execute;” and he made an effort to get free from the Corporation altogether:—

January 24, 1713. “. . . visited by the Mayor and two clergy; afterwards, got my resignation attested, and sent it to the Court, and was surprised, after my return from church, to hear that it would not be received, but the messenger turned away, and the door locked.”

Thus compelled to retain his office, Thoresby again took his place with the Corporation on a great occasion. The Peace of Utrecht was signed on the 31st of March 1713, putting an end to a war that was all but conterminous with the reign of Anne. A Proclamation of the 4th of May, published in the next Gazette, announced it formerly to the nation, and on Tuesday the 12th, which was market-day, it was proclaimed in Leeds with due honours. Thoresby gives this account:—

“Wrote till ten; at church, when the Vicar read prayers, and the cavalcade began presently after from the Mayor’s; after the constables on foot, the Mayor’s younger son carried a silk streamer with the Queen’s cypher and crown, with ‘Peace 1713;’

\* In the Parish Church Register of Burials there is a rather curious entry relating to a member of this family,—1699 (O.S.) January 9, “Mr. Francis Nevile of Holbeck. This Gentleman, as it was supposed, wth. a fall fro his horse betwixt Leedcs and Holbeck.”

then followed the scholars and other gentlemen's sons on horse-back, which were followed by the Common-council-men in their black gowns; then the Aldermen in theirs, two by two, from the junior to the eldest; then the town clerk with the proclamation, which was made at five places (the Cross, Kirkgate end, Bore Lane, Bridge-end and Vicarage); then the two Sergeants-at-Mace, in their black gowns, bearing the old silver mace and the new great gilt one;\* then the Mayor in his scarlet gown, who was attended by the clergy, gentlemen, merchants, and a numerous train of townsmen: after which a great feast, but though I had a special invitation, I thought advisable to retire, dreading the usual attendants, drunkenness and quarrelling, and being in no station that necessarily required attendance. Wrote little till four; at church: the evening concluded with bonfires and illuminations in every house, which, though usual at London, the like was never seen here: but alas! too much of the usual effects all night long. I sat up till midnight reading, for fear of inconvenience by the lights."

Nothing is here said of any further Address, but a Gazette at the month's end contained,—“The Humble Address of the Mayor, Recorder, Aldermen and Common-Council, together with the Clergy, Gentlemen, and other principal inhabitants of *Leeds*,

\* The new Mace, still in use, has upon it “Arthur Mangey de Leeds, Fecit, 1694;” and an order to the Borough Treasurer on the 3rd of November in that year requires him to pay £60 11s. to Arthur Monjoy, goldsmith, for the said mace. It is also inscribed “Marmedvke Hick 2 maior. Tho: Dikson;” the latter was Mayor for the second time 1693-4, Hick for the fourth 1694-5. And it appears that some other inscription was added by order of Jeremiah Barstow, Mayor 1705-7; for at the very Court which rejected Thoresby's tendered resignation, 24 January 1713, it was “Agreed and Ordered That the Inscript'on put vpon the bottom of the great mace belonging to This Corporac'on, by the direction of Alderman Barstow when Maior shall be oblitterated and defaced so as to be made Illegable. And That for the future noe device, writeing or Inscript'on Shall be put upon the said mace without the consent and direction of a Court of Maior, Aldermen and Assistants first had.” Mountjoy got into worse trouble than the Alderman. He was tried at York for coining, found guilty, and executed in 1696. His house in Briggate remained until recently, and in 1836 some workmen engaged upon it found an attic in which, with a few silver coins, were some pairs of shears, corroborating evidence sworn against him at the trial. They are preserved in the museum of the Leeds Literary and Philosophical Society.

in the County of *York*, met in pursuance of Her Majesty's Proclamation of Peace with *France* on the 12th of May 1713." It was "sent up by *Wm. Cookson*, Esq.; Mayor, and presented to Her Majesty by *John Walker*, Esq.; Recorder; being introduced by the Right Hon. the Lord Marquis of *Carmarthen*,\* accompanied by the Right Hon. the Lord Viscount *Downe* and Sir *Arthur Kaye*, Bart., Knights of the Shire, with several other Gentlemen.

This Address is about the same in length as the former one, but in so far differs from it in character that we cannot repeat, "all party matters avoided;" for it has the following passage,—

"The wise Methods by which Your Majesty hath proceeded, in procuring us this Blessing,† will not end in the Admiration of this present Age, but will extend itself to late Generations; but more especially when they read, among the Wonders of Your Reign, that the Old Enemy of Peace could find a Party, even amongst Your Subjects so unworthy of the Blessing, as not only to show their dislike of, but oppose their impotent Malice to Your glorious Designs."

The conclusion is,—

"May therefore the God of Peace long continue Your Majesty among us, to improve and enjoy all the happy Effects of this Your Peace: May You never want that Guaranty You only desire, the Hearts of a loyal and faithful People: May Faction and Envy, and all their vain Efforts in impious Libels be suppress'd; and may that Faith and Church, whose Interest You so zealously espouse, never want so pious a Defender.

"This, as it ought to be the constant Prayer of all good Men, is of us Your Majesty's most dutiful Subjects."

Surely the loyalty of the Leeds Corporation was now asserted beyond cavil; yet further testimony was forthcoming, in a monument which remains to this day.

\* Eldest son of the second Duke of Leeds.

† Peace.

The front of the new Guildhall contained a niche which had been designed for a Royal statue, "as soon," saith the *Ducatus*, "as the publick Stock was so far recruited as to procure it;" an instance of prudence on the part of a Town Council that may well make a modern ratepayer sigh for such good old times! The public stock was spared altogether through the generosity of Alderman Milner, who vindicated his own loyalty and that of his town by presenting for the vacant niche a statue of Queen Anne herself. Mr. Carpenter was again commissioned. On the 20th of May 1712, the third day after his arrival in London, Thoresby—

"Went to Mr. Carpenter's, in Picadilly,\* to see the Queen's statue, in Marble, in her Parliament robes, with crown, globe and sceptre, cousin Milner's most noble present to the Corporation of Leeds, but not in that forwardness that I hoped, and himself expects."

The *Ducatus* says,—

"When Mr. *Carpenter* of *London* had perfected this exquisite Specimen of his Art, it was viewed by many of the Nobility and Gentry, who generally esteemed it the best that was ever made, not excepting the most celebrated one in St. Paul's Church-yard, taken abstractedly from the other Statues."

On the 25th of May 1713, Thoresby was at Mr. Milner's about the Queen's most noble statue, now about to be placed

\* Though Mr. Carpenter appears to have been living in York when he carved the monument for Thoresby's father, Carpenter, London, is on the base of the statue; and the mention of Piccadilly helps to identify him with the Frenchman of whom Walpole gives an account, Carpentiere, or Charpentiere,—“a statuary much employed by the Duke of Chandos at Canons, was for some years principal assistant to Van Ost, an artist of whom I have found no memorials, and afterwards set up for himself. Towards the end of his life he kept a manufacture of leaden statues in Piccadilly, and died in 1737 aged above sixty.” Leaden statues were at that time fashionable ornaments for grass-plots, after the Dutch and French. Van Ost and Carpenter cast and gilt, for the Duke of Chandos, at Canons, the statue of George the First on horseback, afterward removed to Leicester Square, as said in a note to the above quoted passage. Walpole gives no christian name, Mr. Carpenter's was Andrew.



in the position it was designed for ; and on Wednesday the 27th, a fortnight after the proclamation in Leeds of the Peace of Utrecht, he was again with Alderman Milner, "at the setting up of the noble statue of the Queen at the Guild-hall." And Thoresby was thus enabled to insert in the *Ducatus*, that the vacant niche had been "happily supplied by the noble Generosity of the before-mentioned Alderman *Milner*, Justice of the Peace for the West-Riding, who at his proper costs hath erected a most noble magnificent Statue of Her Majesty Queen Anne, to the full Proposition, in the best white marble." \*

The week which saw the statue in the place designed for it, saw Thoresby set free from the office which he had so long thought unfit for him :—

\* As a work of art, the statue is very much superior to many which have since been erected ; and Thoresby was justified in preferring it to the one in St. Paul's churchyard, except in one point. While the London statue is complete before and behind, the Leeds one, designed for a niche, is defective where not intended to be seen. There is a good engraving of the statue in the *Ducatus* ; and over this, in a copy in the Leeds Library with M.S. notes by Thomas Wilson, master of the Charity School in the earlier part of last century, is written,—“The print is a better resemblance of the Queen than the Statue itself.”

Of late years the statue has had vicissitudes, enough in themselves to identify it with the House of Stuart ! It maintained its original position until April 1825. Then, the demolition of the Moot Hall, with an adjacent range of buildings known as Middle Row, extended Briggate in its full width, and sent Queen Anne to a temporary refuge in the new Court House, now the Post Office, and there was some talk of keeping her there, for the vestibule ; but on the 7th of June 1828, she was again placed in a niche, in the frontage of a new Corn Exchange, a position so much resembling the former one that but for discovering the street in front of her to be lengthened she might scarcely have been conscious of the change. Through accident, carelessness, or both, she received personal damage on her deposition, and re-appeared in public with a new right hand and sceptre ; her left, with its orb, repaired ; a new nose and mouth ; her drapery mended ; and quite clean, making allowance for a remaining tint from a coat of oil which had been given to her as a preservative from the weather. She grew again like the Bride in Canticles, as Thoresby said of the Parish Church, “black but comely,” until 1858, when Her Majesty and the late Prince Consort honoured Leeds by formally opening its new Town Hall. Then Queen Anne was made white once more. But in 1868 her second home was demolished to make Briggate longer still ; and she was transported to comparative seclusion behind the new Town Hall's back door, where she may now be seen, though rather dimly. The statue merits better care, and a better position.

"30 May. Morning read; wrote per post till ten; called at Mr. Mayor's, who has at long run procured my quietus as to the Corporation; but was surprised to hear, that when I had secured not my friends only, but others by their means, there should yet remain so many as to throw half the number of votes upon me as upon him that carried it to succeed Alderman Nevile. I flattered myself that I had not so many enemies in the Corporation, and makes me still the better pleased that my resignation is accepted, though it cost me 20*l*."

The sincerity of Thoresby's distaste for Corporate office, and anxiety to withdraw from it, is put beyond question by his purchase of freedom at the cost of a fine which he could ill spare. Yet he voluntarily gave his time and pains for the good of others. Shortly before his resignation he "catechised near fifty poor children and servants. Heard them the Psalms appointed, and distributed the last of the Lord Wharton's Bibles."

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### XIII.

## Acquaintance, Travel and Correspondence.

MR. KIRK OF COOKRIDGE—ABRAHAM DE LA PRYME—TOWN END CLUB—  
PLAXTON, RECTOR OF BERWICK-IN-ELMET—WINTER JOURNEY TO LONDON  
—EARL OF PEMBROKE—DR GEORGE HICKES—BISHOP BURNET—OTHER  
CELEBRITIES—THE ELSTOBS—THORESBY'S ALBUM—SIR HANS SLOANE—  
REV. JOHN STRYPE—HUMPHREY WANLEY—END OF LONDON VISIT, 1709—  
PARSON ATKINSON OF METHLEY.

In the account of Thoresby's journey to Scotland and elsewhere in the former volume, there has been mention of Mr. Kirk of Cookridge. His name first occurs in Thoresby's Diary for 1693, when, in returning from a business visit to Mr. Dineley of Bramhope, Thoresby "viewed the ingeniously contrived walks in Mr. Kirk's wood," and declared them "the most curious of that nature I ever beheld." \*

When his young sister-in-law's courtship by Esquire Salkeild took him to Cumberland in 1694, at starting he "rode by Mr. Kirk's (the virtuoso) of Cookridge." When the Aire and Calder navigation project was begun in 1697, Thoresby, who took much interest in the prosperity of Leeds, notwithstanding his distaste for office, took part in the preliminary survey,—

\* Mr. Kirk's, or Moseley Wood, still exists on the Horsforth side of Cookridge, retaining much of its original form; but not wholly fulfilling the anticipations that Thoresby's account of it in the *Ducatus* warrants:—"that most surprising Labyrinth . . . all kept in order by that ingenious Gentleman (Mr. Kirk) who has the Pleasure, or Fatigue shall I say, of almost all Foreigners, and Gentlemen of Curiosity of our own Nation, that travel into the North, and afterwards can as little conceal their Admiration, as before they could their desires to see it." A plan of the walks is also given; and an example of Mr. Kirk's proposed method of keeping the parish registers of Addle.

"I accompanied the Mayor and Mr. Hadley, the hydrographer, to view the river; Justice Kirk and I followed the windings of the river, and measured it with his surveying wheel, till wearied: left the rest to the servants and others. We lodged at Ferry-Bridge, ten miles by land and twenty by water. Mr. Hadley affirmed it was the noblest river he had ever seen, that was not already navigable.

"The next day we went to Weland; this journey brought me to a greater intimacy with the ingenious Mr. Kirk, who lent me his observations upon the registers at Adle, and other curious papers to transcribe, and presented to me a small book, but a great curiosity, the Manual of Prayers, by Mr. Harrison, our great benefactor, who had presented it to Mr. Layton, Mr. Kirk's grandfather,\* which I had in vain enquired after for many years past."

We learn incidentally from a passage in Thoresby's Catalogue of Manuscripts, that this book of prayers by the founder of St. John's Church was printed in 1647, at the request of some of his friends, by John Jackson of Berwick.† It was a gift enough of itself to win Thoresby's heart.

On his escape from the illness so nigh fatal to him in the autumn of 1698, he received the congratulations of Justice Kirk, Lord Fairfax, and Mr. Bryan Fairfax of London, who then chanced to visit Leeds;‡ and it was from Mr. Kirk, on the

\* Francis Layton of Rawdon. Vol. I., p. 219.

† No. 260 of the octavo M.S.S. contained Harrison's account of the Government of Leeds before it was made a Corporation; his letter to Baron Rigby, and a prayer, which it is said is not printed in the book of 1647. In a biographical account of Harrison written to accompany his portrait, by Lodge, Norroy-King-at-Arms, the above account of Leeds, and letter to Baron Rigby, are supposed to have been printed in 1647, and Granger, who reprints Lodge, in his Biographical History of England, adopts the mistake. It is evidently founded on a misapprehension of the paragraph of the Museum Catalogue.

‡ A letter from Thoresby to Bishop Nicholson of 8 July 1699 has the following postscript:—"My friend Mr. Kirk was so kind as to come and tell me, before he had eaten in his own house, that he had dined with you several times, and had the happiness of your converse at the Lord Privy Seal's, &c." The Lord Privy Seal at that time was the Duke of Leeds.

20th of September 1701, that Thoresby heard "of the successful attempt for a public register of lands in the West Riding, which," he predicted, "will be of use in future ages as well as the present." \*

In the Autumn of 1702 Mr. Kirk and Thoresby took a journey to Lancashire, which appears to have been arranged on the occasion of a visit to Temple Newsome:—

"20 August. Received a visit from Lord Irwin and his tutor, Mr. Ingram, of Barrowby, to whom showing the collections of coins and natural curiosities."

This was the third Lord Irwin, who, then not quite fifteen, succeeded to the title on the death of his father.

"21. Writing a little, till sent for by Mr. Kirk, who being for Temple Newsome, I took that opportunity to wait of my Lord Irwin, and Mr. Machel (a noted Member of Parliament) his grandfather.† After dinner, to view the Hall and Gardens; some pictures in the Gallery are considerable, particularly St. Francis, said to be worth 300%."

"25. Walked to Mr. Kirk's, but prevented of surveying the Roman Camp at Adle, by the coming in of Mr. Arthington, and other gentlemen; so that I accepted of my Lord Irwin's kindness, and came home with him and Mr. Machel in the coach."

"29. . . . My kind friend, Mr. Kirk, having sent his man and horses for me, I rode thither in the evening, and enjoyed his acceptable converse; was looking amongst his books, &c."

"30. Rode with Mr. Kirk and family to their parish church at Adle. Afterwards rode with this good company to Arthing-

\* It was two years after this, in the 2nd and 3rd of Queen Anne, that the Act of Parliament was passed establishing a public Registry of Deeds and Wills in the West-Riding of Yorkshire, extended by a rather later Act to enrollments of Bargains and Sales. Thoresby's prediction of its usefulness had a singular verification. On the sale, early in the present century, of the estate in Kirkgate which formerly belonged to him, the original title-deeds could not be found; and for the necessary abstract of title research had to be made in the Wakefield Registry, and Wills Office at York.

† M.P. for Horsham. The second Lord Irwin had married his eldest daughter and co-heiress. Their son was christened Edward Machel.

ton Hall, and thence after dinner again to Adle Church. After prayers at the parsonage house, with ditto good company, attesting the writings about his induction, &c. Evening, returned to Cookridge."

On the last day of August they began their tour, Mr. Kirk first riding with Thoresby to several points in his grounds where the "Roman Rig," running from Addle to Ilkley, showed itself.

"Further on, upon Bramhope Moor, in the place now called Stadtfolds, we saw another large camp, but this has a double agger, though by its squareness and the leading of the *via vicinalis* thereunto, it seems also to have been Roman; here also we saw the nameless head of our Sheepscar beck, upon which, in so small a distance, are seven or eight mills before it joins with the River Aire at Leeds.\* Thence we rode to the highest point in the Cheven (in British, the ridge of the mountain as Camden tells us); had a large and noble prospect of Wharf- (*Vulgo* Wharl-) dale,† *viz.* of Mensington or Menston (the seat of my honoured friend Thomas Fairfax, Esq., now of Leeds, for the convenience of the church, which he duly and piously frequents with his lady twice every day :) his father, Mr. Charles Fairfax, third son, who survived the first Thomas Lord Fairfax (for his two famous brothers, Captain William and John Fairfax, were slain in the Palatinate) was an eminent antiquary, wrote *Analecta Fairfaxiana*, &c., and the first of Menston: Burley-wood-head and the Lordship thereof, the seat of Mr. Pullen; Ilkley (the Roman *Olicana*), Middleton-lodge, Bethmesley-beacon and Nessefieldscar, all these belonging to the ancient family of the Middletons of Stockeld. . . . Denton and Askwith, both which appertain to the Right Honourable Thomas Lord Fairfax, of Denton Hall, a strong and stately building, as is also Weston, the seat of — Vavasour, Esq.; New-hall, of Mr. Hardisty; Farnley, the pleasant seat of Thomas Fawkes, Esq., my dearest father's friend and mine; his

\* Vol. I., p. 319.

† It is called "Wharledale" in an old map of Yorkshire dated 1577, in No. 889 of the Lansdowne M.S.S.

son, Francis Fawkes, is also ingenious and obliging. . . . Leethley is the seat of Mr. Hitch, whose grandfather was Dean of York; Lindley, of the noted member of Parliament, William Palmer, Esq., my father's special friend, and yet living in the South, to whom also appertains Stainburn. The next thing in view is the two famous crags of Amescliff, in some old writings called Aylmoys *ut dicitur*, but have yet seen nothing memorable of it save its lofty situation; Rigton, the possession of the Duchess of Buckingham, but in reversion my Lord Fairfax's; Casley, where Mr. Robert Dyneley, the second son of my late good old friend Robert Dyneley, Esq., has built a seat: Weeton, Dunkesswick, Weerdley, the Manor of Harwood, its ancient castle and church, all appertain to my honoured and kind friend John Boulter, Esq., of Gawthorpe-hall, who has brought me several curiosities from beyond the sea, and (which will make him justly famous in succeeding ages) has given 50*l.* per annum to the church at Harwood, and 10*l.* or 12*l.* to the school, &c.: Kirkby Overblows to the Duke of Somerset, who is patron of the living, worth 350*l.* per annum (as also of Spawforth, worth 400*l.* or near 500*l.* per annum) and Lord of both the Manors: Swinden Hall to the Bethels, of which family Dr. Bethel and the late Sheriff of London, Slingsby Bethel, author of a Treatise called . . . . Had also a view of the noble edifice at Arthington built by the ingenious Cyril Arthington, Esq., F.R.S., Lord of the Manors of Arthington, Adle, &c., to the reputed value of 2,200*l.* per annum. Bramhope, of John Dyneley, Esq., whose famous grandfather built and endowed the chapel there; Poole to Madam Thornhill; Caley Hall to Mr. Benjamin Atkinson of Leeds; and Cookridge to my honoured and dear friend Thomas Kirk, Esq., F.R.S., whose wood," &c.

Having thus gone the round of Wharfedale from the Chevin, comprising the estates of so many of his friends and acquaintance, Thoresby ends by recollecting the town of Otley, which lay close beneath at the foot of the hill.\*

\* Otley Chevin remains well worth a visit for the view from it; but the estates enumerated by Thoresby have changed ownership, with few exceptions. Middleton still belongs to the Middletons; and the name of Fawkes is represented at Farnley.

By Guiseley, where the benefice was in dispute "between Sir Nicholas Sherburn (a Popish recusant) and Trinity College, Mr. Hitch and the Dean of York," and leaving Esholt, then a seat of Walter Calverley's, to the left, they came to Hawksworth,—

"Where we dined with the ingenious Sir Walter Hawksworth, who is making pleasant alterations and additions to that ancient seat and gardens, &c.; he entertained us agreeably with Roman Histories, &c., wherein he is well versed, and accompanied us several miles in his own desmesnes; *inter alia*, he showed us a monumental heap of stones, in memory of three Scotch boys slain there by lightning, in his grandfather's, Sir Richard Hawksworth's time, as an old man attested to Sir Walter, who being then twelve years of age helped to lead the stones."

Leaving to the left Baildon, "anciently the seat of a family of that name, now of Mr. Thompson of Marston, who married the heiress of that accomplished gentleman, Bradwardine Tindal, of Brotherton, Esq.," they rode to Bingley, where were the seats of the Lord of the Manor, Mr. Benson of Wrenthorpe, near Wakefield, and Mr. Farrand, J.P.; then, leaving the Wapentake of "Skireack" they crossed the Aire, and entering that of Staincliffe rode on to Keighley, where they staid the night,—

"Lodged with the modest good parson Mr. Gale,\* who has made some curious mathematical instruments, and drawn some good figures with Indian ink, being an ingenious and obliging person."

"September 1. Retired, but alas! too frequently prevented in the evenings for want of convenient privacy upon journeys. Had good Mr. Gale's company about two miles; he showed us a free school lately erected by . . . of Kighley, now living, who will settle the whole of his estate upon it at death."

They entered Lancashire at a heap of stones marking the boundary between the two counties, with Haworth to the left,

\* The Dean of York's relative. Vol. I., p. 358, n.



and had nothing in view "for many miles but hills and rivulets descending to the dales." Thoresby here noted how the streams, within a short distance from each other, ran some westward to the Irish sea, others east to the German ocean:—

"Upon the height of the mountain stands Camil Cross, which we left upon the right hand designing for Burnley; but after we had left the lime-kilns below, and ascended a steep and dangerous precipice, the road dwindled away upon an ugly boggy mountain where we wandered in sight of distant houses to which we could find no road. At length, through the enclosures, having come at one, we were surprised to find that, though a large house and substantial people (bringing us a large silver tankard of ale) yet had no horse road to the market town; but pulling down part of a dry wall we passed through his and his neighbour's grounds till we recovered a blind lane, and rode through a continued thicket, several times passing the beck, till at length we met a more open road."

At Coln, Thoresby inquired for Mr. Blakey, whose wife was daughter of Mr. Brearcliffe of Halifax; they at the very time were inquiring for Thoresby in Leeds. But he found the clergyman, Mr. Tatham, copied some old inscriptions in the church, noticed a large cross with five deep steps in the churchyard, and that I.H.S., with crosses, were "upon several modern gravestones." After dinner they rode to Burnley, "where was another cross in the churchyard, but with the addition of a new stately cross erected above the steps;" and passing near Pendle Hill, which they had seen while yet in Yorkshire, they hastened onward to Townley,—

"Where we were very kindly received by that famous mathematician and eminent virtuoso, Richard Townley, Esq., and his brother Charles (the Governor) my old correspondent."

They spent all the next day with Mr. Townley. Thoresby saw his rain-guage, had thoughts of doing the like at home, but,—

“Discouraged with the charge and tediousness: the chariot of his own contrivance, to pass over the mountainous tracts of stones, &c., is very curious, as also a dial in the garden, where great plenty of very fine firs, which they have learnt to propagate by slips . . . also Mr. Adams’s curious instrument, a vast large brass quadrant, that he used when he surveyed England and made his curious map . . . But I was best pleased with the collection of original letters that passed through Mr. Christopher Townley, the antiquary’s contrivance, between Mr. Gascoigne of Yorkshire, and Mr. Crabtree and Mr. Horrox of Lancashire, whereby it plainly appears that the said Mr. Gascoigne, in the reign of King Charles I., was the first and genuine author of the invention of dividing a foot into many thousand parts for mathematical purposes, which Monsieur Anzout values himself as the supposed first inventor of in the present age.” \*

He saw some ancient manuscripts, “but could not find the old writings of the Abbots of Kirkstall;” from some manuscript pedigrees of Mr. Christopher Townley’s he transcribed that of the Langtons; and he saw the Townleys’ own pedigree finely drawn, emblazoned, with old short deeds inserted, on skins of parchment. This, Thoresby says, “was proposed as an exemplar by Dr. Cuerden, in his designed *Brigantia Lancastriensis*,” a design which Dr. Cuerden did not live to carry out.

Leaving the Townley’s on Thursday the 3rd of September, they returned to Burnley, rode from Burnley to Blackburn, and thence to Preston,—

“Which was now extremely crowded with the gentry as well as commonalty, from all parts to the Jubilee, as we call it, but more rightly the Guild: we were too late to see the formalities (the several companies in their order, attending the Mayor, &c., to church; and thence after sermon to the Guildhouse, to the feast, &c.) at the opening of the Guild, but were in time enough for the appendices, the pageant, &c., at

\* Vol. I., p. 406.

the bringing in the harvest, ushered in by two gladiators in armour, on horseback, &c. The Queen discharged her part well, but the King was too effeminate. I was best pleased with a good providence that attended a fellow clad with bears' skins, &c., who running among the mob in the Low Street by the Churchyard, happily chased them away just before the wall fell, and saved their lives."

Music, &c., kept Thoresby awake after he went to bed until three the next morning. On Friday they viewed the town,—

"Went to the Town Hall, where the Mayor showed us their book of privileges, and transcript of their charters for the Guild (and *inspeximus*) as old as Henry I. as I remember. They made us a compliment of our freedom, but we thought ourselves more free without it. An alderman attended us to the Guild-house, where we were treated at a banquet and choice wines . . . Dined at Lawyer Starkey's with Justice Parker, and much good company. Afterwards at Tavern involved in more; to avoid inconveniences, Mr. Kirk and I went with the ladies to a play; which I thought a dull insipid thing, though the actors from London pretended to something extraordinary, but I was the better pleased to meet with no temptation there."

Thoresby again had little rest, "the music and Lancashire bagpipes continuing the whole night at it;" and rising at five on Saturday morning, he and Mr. Kirk rode first to Ribchester, "to view the antiquities of that ancient Roman station." There Thoresby spent some time, guided by the clergyman, Mr. Hargraves, picked up some fragments of urns, &c., on the banks of the Ribble. Then, passing Sir Nicholas Sherburn's at Stonyhurst,—

"Was extremely desirous to have called to see the Roman coins (of which he has a vast quantity) lately found within his territories at Chippin, but there were some reasons to believe we should not be grateful to him, who is reputed a stiff Papist, and Mr. Kirk setting out a militia horse for him."

It seems, too, that Mr. Kirk wished to hasten on,—

“Having happily attained Old Yorkshire, I resigned my government to my fellow traveller, who is now to have it with a *continuendo*, not as this afternoon, for a few hours as we passed in and out the indented skirts of the two counties.”

At night they reached Newbiggin, and there stayed with Mr. Lister, nephew of Thoresby’s “cousin Lodge,” the artist. On Sunday morning they rode through Gisburn to the church at Carlton, and arrived there,—

“Just as ringing in. The minister made a very good sermon, though almost half of it in Latin sentences; but I was more than ordinarily affected with the prayers, blessed be God! found my heart enlarged with his service, and concerned that any part of his day should be spent in travel.”

They dined at Mr. Parker’s, the founder of alms-houses for ten widows at Waddington in Yorkshire, and after dinner “saw a few of his curiosities, particularly the pedigree of King James from Adam, with the pretended coats of arms; and a large silver seal, for the approbation of ministers in the late times; but the key of his cabinet of coins (formerly Mr. Brearcliffe’s of Halifax), could not be found.” Then they rode by Skipton and across Rumbal’s Moor,—

“We left Wingate Nick, whence we have our largest mill-stones, on the right hand, as also Rough Robins (though his name is Will.) who would be thought a noted astrologer; but I believe, by my friends account of him, he is no conjurer.”

At length they reached Denton, and were kindly received by Thomas, the fifth Lord Fairfax; and there Thoresby “was glad to observe the continuance of so religious an order in the family, all the servants, &c., being called in to daily prayers.”

On Monday morning Thoresby viewed the Hall, where Lord Fairfax was then making alterations, “gardens, the hawks, horses, brood-mares and foals (for four of which 80l.

has been refused);” but he “was best pleased in the old library, for which my Lord is preparing a new place.” Lord Fairfax presented Thoresby with an original letter of Prince Rupert’s, and some other choice autographs,—“with the finest medal I have of King Charles the Second, most accurately performed by Simons, the famous artist;” and finally made his visitors stay another night over, when there was “the same pious order, family called in to prayer.” The next day, after seeing a stone in which, “when sawn asunder, a cavity had been found fully occupied by a living toad,” and a chimney-piece of Yorkshire marble which Thoresby says took a good polish and looked very well, they left Denton,—

“My Lord very kindly rode with us part of the way, and showed us four of his oxen, that are the largest, finest beasts that ever I beheld.”

The Wharfe was so swollen at this time that on their way to Denton they could not ford it; and the delay caused by the state of the roads from the bridge prevented Thoresby from seeing the antiquities of Ilkley, the Roman *Olicana*. The waters being still out on the Tuesday, they rode through Askwith, and by Mr. Vavasour’s of Weston, over the bridge at Otley, where the first things which Thoresby noticed were “the ruins of the Archbishop of York’s palace there,” and a “modern school.” Thoresby then visited the church, with its monuments to the first Lord Fairfax and others, criticising “some modern for the Barkers, wherein a slender herald will find the mistake in placing the mother’s coat instead of the father’s in a lozenge for a maiden daughter.”

“We mounted the mighty Cheven, and rode to Rawden, once the seat of an ancient family of that Sirname, of which the famous Sir George Rawden\* mentioned in my notes in the

\* Only son of Francis Rawden, of Rawden, of an untitled family tracing back to the Conquest. George, created Baronet in 1665, was great-grandfather of the first Earl of Moira, whose son, the second Earl, was created Marquis of Hastings.

late edition of the *Britannia*, and of which family there is yet a Baronet in Ireland, now of a memorable old gentleman, Henry Layton, Esq.,\* a good historian and accomplished gentleman, who has printed many tracts against pluralities; his observations about money and coin in general, but especially those of England, 4to. 1697, which are curious, and show much reading in his younger years, and a strong memory in his elder, now he is blind; but must always own my dissent from his heterodox notions of the soul sleeping with the body till the resurrection, being abundantly satisfied in my own conscience, from Scripture and reason, that the soul of man is abundantly capable of subsisting and acting in a state of separation from the body. Lord, prevent the growth of this error, and prevent especially the young gentry in these parts from the contagion thereof. This ought to be added on behalf of the ingenious, and, in other respects, religious old gentleman, that he lives piously under the power of a practical belief of the Resurrection at the great day of judgement, &c. After dinner, and discourse with Mr. Layton and his two nephews, my dear friend and Mr. Robinson,† returned through the pleasant walks in his wood to Cookridge, having in all our journey not travelled one mile twice over, except that betwixt Townley and Burnley, in Lancashire, where there was no other road. I stayed little there, hasting home to my dear wife and children, whom I found very well, blessed be the

About a fortnight after his return from Lancashire, Thoresby accompanied Mr. Fairfax (probably he who had removed from Menston to Leeds), by Kirkstall Abbey and the Forge to Mr. Pollard's of New Lathes, to visit Madam Rawden, sister of Sir George, and then aged eighty-one. From her narrative, he gives an interesting account of Sir George's hastening to Ireland in 1641, and defending Lismore against Sir Phelim O'Neale and "the cruel cut-throats" under him. Thoresby says the substance of the story is related "by Bishop ———, in the funeral sermon for another of our famous countrymen, Archbishop Margetson," of Drighlington, where he built the Free-School.

The above Mr. Pollard showed Thoresby the Abbot of Kirkstall's stirrups, "prodigiously great and of a very antique form," and the next year made him a present of them.

\* Mr. Kirk's uncle; the builder of Rawdon Chapel.—Vol. I., page 219.

† Thomas, Son of William Robinson, of Rokeby, Esq., who married the sister of Mr. Layton, and of the mother of Mr. Kirk.

God of all our mercies! I desire particularly to bless my gracious Protector, for preserving my dear wife and self upon our journeys, and bringing us comfortably to our respective habitations. Oh, that we may live more and more to the praise and glory of his great name!"

Soon afterward, the fellow travellers discovered relationship. The great-grandfather of Kirk, and great-grandmother of Thoresby, were brother and sister.

After examining the Roman remains at Adel on the 5th of November 1702, Thoresby walked to Cookridge, Mr. Kirk having left Lord Fairfax and others in order to meet him,—

"Consequently, obliged to stay all night with my good friend, in the drawing of whose pedigree from writings and his own remarks, we found that my grandmother Thoresby's mother, and his grandfather's (of both his names) father, were brother and sister, Gilbert and Frances Kirk, son and daughter of Thomas Kirk, of Buslingthorpe, whose elder brother Gilbert was the first of Cookridge, where he purchased the estate now in the possession of my said dear friend, for dying without issue, he gave his estate there to his nephew Gilbert, *proavus* to the present Justice, and gave a legacy of £26 13s. 4d. to the said Frances, my *proavia*."

Thoresby spent the next two days with his friend, in the course of which he wrote out the Kirk pedigree, afterward printed in the *Ducatus*; and, perusing the Letters Patent whereby Edward the Sixth had granted Cookridge along with Kirkstall Abbey to Archbishop Cranmer, he transcribed from them what related to the Parish of Leeds. These extracts, with some manuscript notes of Mr. Kirk's, which Thoresby also transcribed, were used for his Topography, where it is related how the elder Gilbert Kirk bought Cookridge from Sir Thomas Cecil, afterward Earl of Exeter, who had bought it from Thomas Cranmer, son of the Archbishop. And there

also is this interesting story of Thoresby's great-grandmother Frances Cloudesly, *née* Kirk,—

“Whose affectionate care to preserve the House wherein I was born, and now dwell, from Ruin in the late unhappy Wars, I am obliged particularly to remember with Gratitude; for when the Town was taken, and her Son and Daughter (who was a Childbearing and timorous Woman) were fled, she staid behind; and partly by interest with the Governour (she being a known Royalist), and partly by a considerable Sum of Money which she paid, saved the House, that her Daughter might have a convenient Habitation to return to.”

Her grandson, the younger John Thoresby's service under Fairfax helps to explain this; whether the incident is to be referred to the occupation of Leeds by the Royalists after the battle of Adwalton Moor, or it happened earlier in the war. Frances Cloudesly died in 1649, having outlived Mrs. Thoresby, her daughter, three years.

Mr. Kirk seems at this time to have lent his Scotch Journal\* to Thoresby, who shortly afterward transcribed it; and in March 1703 they rode together to visit Sir Godfrey Copley at Sprotborough, near Doncaster. It was in commencing this journey that Thoresby called, with his friend, upon Sir William Lowther. Thence they rode through Allerton and over Castleford-bridge,—

“Viewed the new lock lately made by the undertakers for the navigation; thence not far from the glass-house at Houghton; after, upon the ascent, had a fair view of the ruins of the once celebrated castle, at Pontefract, with the high church, and Dr. Johnston's house, and a little after of Newhall, which belongs to the Pierrepoints.”

After passing Wentbrig they followed the Roman road, “not only visible for several miles, but its complete dimensions,” drank from a spring near to it named after Robin Hood, and

\* Quoted, Vol. I., page 125.



then leaving the common road to Doncaster took "the old one, as is evident from the said Roman rig." Sir Godfrey Copley received them kindly; but his Lady and family being in London, where he was about to return, being a chief commissioner for taking public accounts, they "lodged and dieted with him at Mr. Lamplugh's, the parson's, where he had also his uncle, Mr. Arthington's company." \* During their five days visit at Sprotborough, Thoresby examined its church with monuments of the Fitzwilliam family, a co-heiress of which a Copley had married; read "some remarkable papers relating to the public accounts of the nation;" saw the gardens with their fountains and statues, and assisted Mr. Kirk and Mr. Arthington† in taking a level for a new canal "making from the water-engine (which is very curious, and conveys water to a large lead cistern upon the roof of the Hall, a vast height from the foot of the hill) to the corn-mill, whence he can go by water to Conisburgh Castle on one hand, or Doncaster on the other." They saw "the salmon-beck," and were afterward visited by "the ingenious Robert Molesworth, Esq. (since Lord Molesworth), his late Majesty's Envoy at the Court of Denmark, so that all the five members of the Royal Society, in this county, were met at Sprotburgh." ‡

Thoresby perused the Sprotborough Registers,—

"Then rode with Mr. Kirk to meet Mrs. Molesworth at his wood, where is making a curious walk, formerly set out by my said friend, Mr. Kirk, which we now marked through another

\* William Lamplough, Rector of Sprotborough, married the niece of Cyril Arthington.

† "The said *Cyril Arthington*, Esq., (who is Justice of Peace for the West-Riding, Deputy-Lieutenant and Fellow of the Royal Society) has lately erected a noble Hall at *Arthington*, and furnished it with water conveyed in pipes of lead from an Engine he has contrived at his Mill upon the River *Wharf*, being an ingenious Gentleman, and well seen in *Hydrostaticks*." *Ducatus Leodiensis*. There are not any remains, nor is there any trace, of the Water-engine now.

‡ Vol. I., p. 425.

wood, &c. within his lordship's, which, when finished, will, perhaps, be the noblest in England, being near two miles long in a direct line, and, for the most part, stately high trees on each side. After this was finished, we were conducted to his house at Edlington, which is an ancient fabric, lately the seat of Sir Thomas Wharton, but stands conveniently, and has a good prospect; he entertained us with a quantity of choice wines and delicacies, but I was most taken with his own conversation."

On the morning of their departure from Sprotborough, Sir Godfrey,—

"Showed us the several apartments of his noble and spacious houses; the stair-case is curiously painted by a good hand, the gallery adorned with some original pictures of Sir Anthony Vandyke's, and other great masters; his closets with choice curiosities, amongst which I took notice of a Pope's bull, a large snake, a delicate unicorn's horn, a speaking trumpet and other mathematical instruments, wherein he is well versed: showed me also some things of his own painting and drawing, in crayons, casting, &c., with heads also and busts seemingly of stone, but really pasteboard."

Sir Godfrey presented Thoresby with "his own picture, the prospect of his noble seat at Sprotborough, with the fountains, canals, woods and gardens." He had also promised Thoresby another gift,—

"Had a remarkable account from Mr. Barrowby of Burrow-bridge, of a little image, and other Roman monuments himself found under the walls of Aldburgh, &c., which Sir Godfrey has promised me." \*

From a connexion of the Copleys, Mr. Battie of Warmsworth, he received "a sample of some fine spar, or selenites, found in a bed of plaster, as they were digging near his new house, which is very pretty for size, but scarcely finished;" and

\* In the Museum catalogue of antiquities there is,—“fluted or furrowed Glass, sent me by Sir *Godfrey Copley*, with a lump of metal that seems to have boiled out of a Crucible, from the Ruine of the said wall (Aldbrough).”

some polished specimens of Derbyshire marble. Thoresby concludes,—

“Took leave of this obliging Baronet, some of whose speeches are in Sir John Fenwick’s\* Case, which he presented me with, and a coin of Antoninus Pius, which proves a different reverse from all I had before.”

“In our return, we rode by another seat of Sir Godfrey Copley’s, formerly Sir Thomas Adams’s, and after, had a distant prospect of Mr. Washington’s at Adwick, of which family Mr. Robert Washington, merchant in Leeds, where he died, and where his son Joseph was educated, and I think born, though registered at Tinglew, the old gentleman being an eminent member of that Society; this Joseph Washington, Esq., published the most correct and exact abridgement of the statutes and other tracts hereafter to be mentioned among our Leeds authors (*Deo Volente*).”

A pedigree of this family is given in the *Ducatus*, with the Arms,—Argent, two Bars, and three Mulletts in chief, gules. The said Robert Washington, of Austhorpe Hall, Leeds, was a younger brother of Lieut. Col. James Washington, who died in the service of Charles the First at the siege of Pontefract Castle, and who had married the daughter of William Copley, Esq., of Sprotborough. Joseph Washington was a barrister of Gray’s Inn, and published in 1689 an “Exact abridgement of the Statutes,” which passed through several editions, and was eventually continued by Henry Boulton. He also translated part of Lucian’s Dialogues, and some other works are attributed to him. The American Washingtons were another line of the same family; and it is curious that the Coat of Arms given by Thoresby bears much resemblance to Stars and Stripes.

At Ferrybridge the fellow-travellers parted; Mr. Kirk going to the Assizes at York, Thoresby to his sister-in-law Rayner’s,

\* Executed in 1697 as a conspirator against William III. His attainder by Parliament, because ordinary proceedings in a Criminal Court would not suffice for his conviction, was the occasion of much debate.

at Brotherton. While there, he searched for autographs an old chest of papers which had belonged to his father-in-law Sykes, and "found some remarkable letters, &c., in the late times." And he spent some time with the Vicar of Brotherton, the Rev. Charles Daubuz, son of a French Protestant Minister, and brought by his mother to England in 1686 to escape from persecution. She sent him to a private school at York; thence he went to Queen's College, Cambridge; and before becoming Vicar of Brotherton was successively master of the Sheffield Grammar School, and a Vicar-Choral at Southwell. He contributed to Thoresby's collection of autographs; and there is one letter from him in the printed correspondence, thanking Thoresby for the loan of Dr. Plot's Oxfordshire, and asking him to request a Mr. Tavernier to send him by the bearer of the letter, a Brotherton butcher, Misson's Travels. On the occasion of a later visit Thoresby mentions seeing "two large volumes of Parson Daubuz's learned and curious commentary upon the Revelations." He died at Brotherton in 1717. He also wrote *Pro Testimonio Flavii Josephi de Jesu Christo*, published in 1706; and *The Maxims of Popish Policy* in England, translated from the French, in 1709.

In the May following this visit to Copgrove, Mr. Kirk, in company with Mr. Arthington and some other magistrates, visited Thoresby. Their purpose was to see and hear the performance of a young man from Lynn, who rang the eight bells of the Parish Church, playing "very artificially the several changes upon them, with Lilly-bul-lero, and several tunes very distinctly, as if there had been a man to each bell." Mr. Kirk and Thoresby,—

"Went aloft to the height of the steeple, to see how he had fixed the ropes to the clappers of each bell, whence they were brought into the ringing loft, where he screwed them down in a semi-circle and sat upon the floor in the midst of

them, touching some with his hands, others with his arms, and the great bell generally with his elbow, but varied very dexterously according to the several tunes."

Next July, Thoresby was at York with Mr. Kirk, who, with Mr. Arthington and some others, one night kept him up late, "and, which was worse, prevented an opportunity of retirement." But, next morning,—“left my dear friend (Mr. Kirk) in bed,” and “retired.” A couple of days afterward they called upon “Mr. Sturdy, the quondam famous schoolmaster of Bradford, whose acquaintance of the *Hæmatites* wrought into iron, is registered *Phil. Trans.* 199; but alas! he was seduced to the Romish Church.”\* Then they went to a venison feast at Mr. Thompson’s, one of those who had kept Thoresby up late, but who now treated him, not with venison only, but “more agreeably with some autographs of King James II. and above twenty judges, &c.” In the following October Mr. Kirk was again with Thoresby in the company of Lord Fairfax, and his Lordship’s uncle, Dr. Bryan Fairfax, Secretary to the Archbishop of Canterbury; who had been the secret messenger from Fairfax the General to Monk in Scotland, on the projected restoration of Charles the Second. Thoresby now heard from Dr. Fairfax some particulars of his negotiation with Monk, conducted with so much privacy “that he never saw Scotland, though he dispatched that great concern with him there.”†

\* The paper in the Transactions is dated Townley, March 14th 1674. The heading is,—“*Extracts of some Letters from Mr. John Sturdie of Lancashire concerning Iron Ore; and more particularly of the Hæmatites, wrought into Iron at Milthrop-Forge in that County. Communicated by Dr. Martin Lister, S.R.S.*”

† Not long afterward, Thoresby said of Clarendon’s History, which he had been reading,—“Written with commendable freedom, discovering the springs of many of the transactions of that age, that are not to be met with in common authors, and is very copious and free in the character of persons concerned on both sides; only the Presbyterians apprehended him not full in the acknowledgement of the assistance they contributed to the great Revolution, *an.* 1660, wherein they were eminently concerned; Test. Tho.

And at the beginning of November Thoresby visited Mr. Kirk at Cookridge, staying over-night, and comparing his own notes on that part with Mr. Kirk's writings. On the day of his arrival he went to the neighbouring church of Addle, drew the bas-reliefs of the norman capitals which support the chancel-arch, and "dined at the ingenious parson's, Mr. Jackson's."

Thoresby's diary is wanting after this, and we have no further mention of Mr. Kirk, or Kirke, for the name is given both ways, until his death, which took place on the 24th of April 1706, at the age of 55. In his Review for that year, Thoresby says,—

"I was more than ordinarily concerned for the death of dear Mr. Kirk; in his sickness I took a walk to visit him, and discourse with him about soul affairs (as we had often done about matters of learning and curiosity, he being F.R.S.), and was pleased with the motto I found in some books of devotion in his closet, *nulla dies sine prece*. I was jealous, lest his uncle Layton's heterodox notions about the souls dying with the body might have influenced him. But in his last sickness he said to the minister, 'My faith, I thank God, is firm and orthodox, and my repentance, I hope, sincere,' a far more comfortable expression than the more positive (though often too groundless) of many others."

On his next birthday Thoresby wrote,—

"I was pensive for having misspent forty-eight years: the last anniversary of my nativity I was with dear Mr. Kirk, who is since dead."

Mr. Kirk's name frequently occurs in the *Ducatus*, where his pedigree is given, with the rather striking coat-of-arms, parted per fess, Or and Gules, a lozenge counterchanged. And the Scotch tour which Thoresby transcribed is thus entered

Dom. Fairfax et patre meo." There are particulars of Fairfax's part in the Restoration in "The Life of the great Lords Fairfax," by C. R. Markham, who mentions a manuscript at Leeds Castle, Kent, entitled *Iter Boreale*, written by Bryan Fairfax, and giving more details of his journey to Monk in Scotland than the version printed in the Fairfax Correspondence.

in his catalogue of manuscripts,—“The Journal of *Thos. Kirk*, Esq., of *Cookridge*, An. 1677, thro’ most parts of *Scotland* (a tour of 963 Miles). *N.B.* This is not his waggish Description of *Scotland* that was twice printed, but more solid Observations.”\* The commencement is printed in Richardson’s “Reprints of rare Tracts;” and Mr. Hunter has given the whole of it as an Appendix to Thoresby’s Correspondence. Mr. Kirk was one of a merry company who started for Ripon and the north on the 14th of May 1677, and after travelling through the east of Scotland to Edinburgh, Aberdeen and Inverness, sailed to the Orkneys. In returning they went by Glasgow and Ayr to Portpatrick, whence, on the 28th of August, they set sail for “Donough Adee;” but the wind drove them “down as low as the Lough Naerne,” where they landed the next day. The journal gives amusing glimpses of society as it then existed in the country travelled through, and it is certain that he who wrote it was excellent company, a man of intelligence and humour. Leaving Durham, they “took leave of good ale;” which is explained further on,—“The ale in this country (Scotland) and in Northumberland, is made of bigg-malt, and was not at all gustful to our palates.” But if good ale was wanting, they were often hospitably entertained where the wine flowed even too freely. At other times the accommodation, or rather want of it, with which they had to put up, was of the worst description. Mr. Kirk gives this account of his first night in Edinburgh,—“the bottom of my bed was loose boards, one laid over another, with sharp edges, and a thin bed upon it. I ken I got but little sleep that night.”†

\* The M.S. was in a volume of Miscellanies, No. 41 of Thoresby’s Folios.

† In Harl. M.S.S. 5915, a curious collection of Initials, Tail-Pieces, Book-Plates, &c., there is Mr. Kirke’s book-plate. It is composed of his shield, Or and Gules, a lozenge counterchanged, between two monograms, T. K., in floriated scrollwork, that on the sinister side being reversed. His name, Thomas Kirke, is on a ribbon beneath.

The Rev. Abraham De La Pryme, F.R.S., whose diary has repeatedly been quoted from, was another friend of Thoresby's, who says on the 1st of February 1703,—

“Finished the perusal of Mr. De La Pryme's M.S. Catalogue of the Manuscripts he has collected, which are many and valuable, particularly in his History of the Antiquities, &c. of the town and county of Kingston-upon-Hull, in four volumes, in folio, which the author left with Mr. Thornton, for my perusal, being then in Lancashire.”

Thoresby afterward wrote to him, as we learn from De La Pryme's reply on the following 17th of May,—

“I received yours yesterday from Mr. Hall of Fishlake, and have returned this by post, in answer thereto, hoping that it will come safe to your hands. I am very much obliged to you for the great favour that you express towards me, and my poor studies and endeavours. Yet none could be more desirous of seeing you than myself, the last year when I was at your town, to have got a personal acquaintance with you, and been satisfied with some ancient affairs that then stuck a little hard upon me.”

One of these was the locality of Winwid, the scene of the famous battle between the Northumbrian King Oswy and the Mercian Penda, mentioned by Bede. Thoresby, in the new edition of Camden, had placed it near the River Aire, and this Dean Gale had disputed in a conversation with De La Pryme.\*

“But I doubt not,” continues the letter, “but to be rightly informed of this and other things when I have the happiness of seeing you, at your town, which I hope will be about a month or six weeks hence. As for my History of Hull, which I drew out of all the records of that town, by particular order of the Mayor and Aldermen,† I have not altogether

\* See De La Pryme's Diary, page 188. In the *Ducatus* Thoresby adheres to his locality.

† De La Pryme was curate and Divinity reader at the principal church in Hull from 1698 until, in 1701, the Duke of Devonshire gave him the Curacy of Thorne.



finished it, neither must I dare to publish it till some be dead that are now living."

De La Pryme then mentions some additions to his manuscripts since he wrote the catalogue seen by Thoresby, particularly his discovery in the Duke of Devonshire's library at Hardwick, the "Compendium Compertorum" of Drs. Legh and Layton on their visitation of the northern monasteries prior to the dissolution. The letter has this postscript,—“If you see Mr Thornton, pray present my most humble service to him, and tell him he forgot to send me my catalogue of manuscripts, which I have had great want of, and which he promised as soon as perused by you and himself.” De La Pryme also sent Thoresby a copy of a Proclamation, for which he had asked, respecting the issue of farthing tokens in 1622. The whole is published by Hunter; the letter has been printed also by the *Surtees Society*, but without the postscript and proclamation. The following letter written by Thoresby to De La Pryme is from No. 898 of the Lansdowne M.S.S. in the British Museum:\*

“Reverend Sir,

Immediately upon the receipt of your kind Lett<sup>r</sup> I begin to transcribe what Leland has concerning *Doncaster* &c. w<sup>c</sup> being more than I expected, I could not finish it (being prevented by an unexpected journey to York) at this very post. Here is what I can at present find relating to the places you desire, he begins (where I end) with the Drains and Isle of Axholme. The book mine is transcribed into, has so many private affairs intermixt, that it is quite improper to communicate to any person to write for you. I am sorry I have no more time y<sup>t</sup> I might do it myself, but I am so straitened, that money could not tempt me, but the old seals of the Abbeyes you told me of might do wonders, if you please to bestow them upon my collection of Antiquities. I will present you with what will make an addition to your M.S.S. and will transcribe for you whatever

\* It is alluded to in the *Surtees* publication, but has not before been printed. It is here given with the original spelling and contractions.

Leland has in any of the vol<sup>s</sup> of his Itinerary concerning all places in the West-Riding of Yorkshire though I must sit up til midnights to do it, it shall be writ (as this is) in the very words of y<sup>t</sup> old Author, as my Lord Archbishops was, it being more authentick.

"If you please to lend me your Compendium Compertor, after perusal I will restore it again safely, you may direct it (with the little printed pamphlet of Mr. Portington's, and y<sup>e</sup> original Lett<sup>s</sup> you kindly promised me) in an out cover to Mr. Wil<sup>m</sup> Milner Alderman in Leeds and he will convey it safe to  
S<sup>r</sup>

Your most humble Serv<sup>t</sup>

Ralph Thoresby."

"Leedes 8 Nov<sup>r</sup> 1703."

"Parson Plaxton of Berwick was  $\frac{1}{2}$  angry y<sup>t</sup> I brought you not to his Induction feast.

"My service to Mr. Hall, I beg the favour of my Uncle Thoresby's epitaph to come in y<sup>e</sup> parcel p water.

"At York I saw y<sup>e</sup> acc<sup>t</sup> of the moneys coyn'd in y<sup>e</sup> late mint there in K. W<sup>ms</sup>. time. The Totall of w<sup>ch</sup> was  
312520 : 00 : 06 <sup>s.</sup> <sup>d.</sup> as I had it from Major Wyvell the chiefe officer there."

The letter is addressed "For The Reverend Mr. Abraham de la Pryme, Minister of Thorn, Doncaster. Post pd."

Thoresby had visited Major Wyvil, "son to Sir Christoper, the author of some learned tracts against Popery," at York, three days before the date of this letter, in company with Alderman Milner. De La Pryme lent Thoresby his copy of the Compendium, or at least the part of it relating to Yorkshire, which Thoresby transcribed and made use of. The M.S.S. found at Hardwick was also a copy, made in the reign of Edward the Sixth for the use of the Earl of Shrewsbury, from the original, which Thoresby says was destroyed in the reign of Queen Mary. The epitaph asked for in the second postscript would be that of Joseph Thoresby, buried at Fish-

lake, which is near to Thorne. It is given in Hunter's South Yorkshire:—"Hic jacet Josephus Thoresby nuper de Dousthorp armiger, dux, et custos pacis: qui obiit primo die Aprilis Anno Domini 1665, *Ætatis suæ* 41."

De La Pryme sent to Thoresby the book about Mr. Portington, Henry Portington, a Royalist; and Thoresby made further inquiry from him concerning that family, to which De La Pryme responded in a letter of the 25th of January 1704. Dr. Hunter, in his South Yorkshire, says that it was the latest insertion in De La Pryme's diary; and it is given in the *Surtees* publication.

In Thoresby's diary for the 20th of June, in the said year 1704, we have,—

"Was much concerned to hear of the death of my kind friend Mr. Abraham De La Pryme, Minister of Thorne, who, visiting the sick, caught the new distemper or fever, which seized him on Wednesday, and he died on Monday after, the 12th inst., in the prime of his age; he was a Fellow of the Royal Society, has several letters in the Transactions; had made a great collection of M.S.S., compiled the History of Hull in three vols. fol."

He was buried on the 14th at Hatfield. His commencement of the letter to Thoresby last mentioned is sufficient testimony to his laborious industry,—

"I received yours some time ago, but had not the opportunity of answering it untill now, being busied in transcribing the whole court rolls of the manour of Hatfield, from Edward the First's days until now, (which will take me eight or ten volumes in folio) in which are an infinite number of things very observable."

The next sentence apparently refers to the Compendium:—

"I am very glad that the com [position]\* was acceptable

\* The wanting syllables are thus supplied in the *Surtees* publication, but Thoresby's letter of the previous November suggests another reading, compendium, or compertor.

unto you (I am sure it would not have been so to the Papists in King James the 2nd's time, if it had been then printed, to whome it would have given a mortal blow). You may direct it to Mr. Hardwick, at Rawcliffe, for me, by which means I hope it will come safe to my hands."

Several Leeds associates of Thoresby's are named by him as fellow members of a local club. He wrote in his Review for December 1704, when the settlement of his embarrassed affairs was still unconcluded,—

"All the diversion I had to keep me from melancholy despondency was in my library, and the happy society of dear Mr. Thornton, Mr. Dwyer, &c., at the Town-End club once a week: this was so coveted that Mr. Fairclough gave for his admission a guinea towards our charity-stock, out of which we gave forty shillings towards the erecting the minister's house for Armley chapel; but the remembrance of this also is now bitter by surviving every one of them; not only the two excellent persons before-mentioned, with Mr. Dennison and Mr. Pawson, but Mr. Nevile and Mr. Skinner, who paid more for forfeitures than their sixpenny clubs would come to."

The last named was son of William Skinner, a Mayor of Hull, who bequeathed a dole of eight dozen loaves of bread on the first Sunday of every month; and son-in-law of another noted Hull Mayor, George Crowle, founder of a hospital in Sewer Lane.\* Henry Pawson, merchant, alderman, and member of a family of some standing in Leeds for several generations, married a daughter of Mr. Bean of Ledston, sister of Mrs. James Ibbetson.† He presented to Thoresby, for his Museum, "a *Straw Hat* about two Yards and a half in Circumference;" it, and a cloth one which he had from another donor, nearly as large, were "such as George Fox the Proto-Quaker called

\* Whose wife, Eleanor, was grand-daughter of Sir John Lowther. She contributed largely to a library at the principal, or, as the *Ducatus* says, the "great church" in Hull.

† Vol. I., page 320.

*Skimming Dish Hats*, and bore his Testimony against them; and to confess the Truth, they are almost as Novel as his Religion, Brimes being a modern Invention since round flat Caps were disused." Another notable contribution of Mr. Pawson's was,—“A large *Ball of Stone* shot out of the *Cannon* called the *Queen's Pocket-Pistol*, in the late Wars, from Cavalier-Hill into this Street (Kirkgate); it is yet above a yard in Circumference.” This was when the Fairfaxes held Leeds against the Earl of Newcastle's forces, Queen Henrietta Maria being meanwhile delayed at York. Thomas Denison, described upon his monument in the Parish Church as “one of the Society of the Merchant-Adventurers of England,” travelled abroad, and brought from Prussia a piece of amber enclosing a perfect spider, which he bestowed upon Thoresby; besides a coin of Augustus, King of Poland, dated 1705. Our only account of Mr. Fairclough is in the following passage of the *Ducatus*:—“A considerable part of the Lands of the *Portingtons* (the Male Issue being extinct) is now the Property of *Henry Fairclough*, Esq.; whose family has been famous for Arts and Arms; one of them was Standard-Bearer to the Earl of *Derby* at *Bosworth-field*, and great means of King Henry VIIIth's Victory; another of them, for his great Learning and Skill in the Oriental Languages was appointed by King *James I.* to be one of the Translators of the Bible. Dr. *Daniel Fairclough*, alias *Featley*, whose Works praise him in the Gates, was a Branch of this Family; as also the pious Mr. *Sam. Fairclough*.”\* Thomas Dwyer, B.D., whom Thoresby names along

\* Various members of this family are noticed in Wood's *Athenæ Oxoniensis*. Samuel Fairclough was a Nonconformist, whose funeral at Bunhill Fields was very largely attended, and among others by Stillingfleet and Tillotson. There is an account of him in Clarke's “Lives of sundry eminent persons in this later Age;” London 1683. A life of Daniel Fairclough, written by a nephew, was published in London in 1660, and its author thus explains the *alias* Featley,—“Even in the days of my good father, the name (by the mistakes of people

with Mr. Thornton, had been appointed Master of the Free Grammar School in 1698. There is testimony to the estimation in which he was held, in Thoresby's Diary, under the date 2nd October 1702,—“Received a kind visit from Mr. Skipper, who brought my Lord Archbishop's son, to be educated at our school under good Mr. Dwyer, who has also the Lord Mayor of York's son.” He continued Master of the Leeds school until 1706, when he changed to Sedberg. His letter to the Rev. Mr. Killingbeck, 10th September 1706, with his formal resignation, is in the British Museum.\* In it he says,—“At last prevailed on (I need not tell you by what Argum<sup>t</sup> or what Accidents) to resolve to continue here, tho' my Inclination be still for Leeds,” &c. The resignation appended is as follows:—

“I Thomas Dwyer, Master of y<sup>e</sup> Free Grammar Schole in Leeds in y<sup>e</sup> County of York doe freely and willingly Resign into y<sup>e</sup> hands of y<sup>e</sup> Rev<sup>d</sup>. Mr. Jo<sup>n</sup>. Killingbeck Vicar of Leeds and y<sup>e</sup> other Worthy Members of y<sup>e</sup> Committee for Pious Uses, All y<sup>e</sup> Right and Title y<sup>t</sup> I have to y<sup>e</sup> said Schole, to dispose of as they shall think Convenient. As Witness my Hand this 10th. day of Sept. 1706. Thos. Dwyer.”

The Recorder, Mr. Thornton, and Mr. Neville, High Sheriff, being known already, some notion may now be formed of this Leeds Club at the commencement of the 18th century, which helped to divert Thoresby from brooding over his troubles.

varied and altered from Fairclough to Fairley, then to Fateley, and at length to Featley, which name he first owned in print in all our family.” Thoresby refers to Fuller's Church History for the Fairclough skilled in Oriental languages, but Fuller only gives the name among the Oxford men who took part in translating the Prophets. For the Standard-Bearer, he refers to “The Compleat Gentleman,” by Henry Peacham the Younger, whose Mother was a Fairclough; but in this work, published in 1634, it is only said of him,—“A Gentleman of this house was Standard-bearer unto Lord Stanley at the Battle of Bosworth, who came with his Lancashire forces,” &c.

\* Additional M.S.S. 4275.

Parson Plaxton, who found fault with Thoresby for not having taken De La Pryme to his induction feast, and whose account of Boscobel and its neighbourhood became the subject of a communication to the Royal Society, had either known Thoresby before coming to his neighbourhood, or soon made acquaintance with him afterward. He is first named on the 31st of May 1703:—

“Evening, sent for per Parson Plaxton, presented by the Lord Gower (as Chancellor of the Duchy) to the great living at Berwick-in-Elmet; he showed me a piece of British gold, and a noble statue of Hercules in bass-relief upon an onyx stone.”

On the 1st of June:—“To the ingenious Mr. Plaxton, who has promised to procure me one of the ancient clogs, or perpetual almanacks, described by Dr. Plot in his History of Staffordshire;” a promise that was fulfilled, and more, for Plaxton gave him two, besides a fuller written description than the one in Plot. They were in use on the Welsh border, from near which Mr. Plaxton had removed. In the Appendix to the *Ducatus* there are particulars about them; and in the *Ducatus* itself there is this account of the new Rector of Berwick,—“What is too rare, resident there, being the first that has been so for many ages; and as the Parochians are happy in his Preaching, and Prayers on the Week Days, and Monthly Communions, to which ancient Custom he has happily reduced them; so the Republic of Letters will be advanced by his designed History,” a history of his parish, still noted by antiquaries for its ancient earthworks, and its association with the little British dominion of Elmet, which maintained its independence down to the seventh century.\* A clergyman

\* That Plaxton commenced this work appears from a letter which he wrote to Thoresby in December 1707, commencing,—“Our friend Mr. Edward Lhwyd is now returned to Oxon, and hath favoured me with his conjectures about the etymology of Elmet. He is of opinion that it is a British name, and the

who to earnest piety added inclination for topographical pursuits could not but be acceptable to Thoresby, who wrote in 1706,—

“My dear and I rode to Berwick to oblige Parson Plaxton and family with our child’s company, and myself with his, and perusal of the registers of that church, and some ancient M.S.S. various editions of the Common Prayer and Bible; as also those at Spawford, at Dr. Talbot’s. I rode also with them to the meeting of the neighbouring clergy at Wetherby, where the Doctor and several rectors and vicars read, subscribed the orders agreed upon, and after discoursed very well of matters relating to their own province.”

Yet in character the two friends widely varied. The Rev. George Plaxton was pre-eminently a man of humour, as his letters prove. He had appellations of his own for familiar friends, addressing Thoresby as “Ralpho,” and “Dear Ralpho.” Mr. Thornton was “the Minstrel,” and “the Christian Lawyer;” and Alderman Milner is turned into “Alderman Million.” He often signed himself “G. Barwick.” Thirteen of his letters are printed by Mr. Hunter; the following short one may serve as a specimen:—

“Jan. 6, 1707–8.

“Dear Ralpho,

“John Evans, Bishop of Bangor, I am afraid, was not the author of any of our London Cases; he was a chaplain in the East Indies; got well by trading there; then married a rich widow of the factory,—I think her husband was a barber; came into England very wealthy, in the latter end of King William, and having some sort of extraordinary merits, was made a bishop. The man behaves himself well in his diocese, and in the House of Lords too. What he has wrote, I cannot

same with Elvid,” the name of an ancient sub-division in Caernarvonshire. Lloyd referred to the *Archæologia Britannica*, which Mr. Plaxton asked Thoresby to lend to him if he had it; adding,—“I will send you his letter as soon as I can; but I have some work to do if I can meet with the *Archæologia Brit.*” In a subsequent letter, Mr. Plaxton proposes to set Lloyd’s etymology aside, and suggests some others of his own.



tell; he understands the muslin and calico part of divinity pretty well; this is all I will write. I can say more; but the man who keeps autographs has always a check upon my pen. My service to my dear Habby, Symson, the Minstrel, to John the Reeker, and those other good Christians of my acquaintance. Farewell, old conjurer, honest Ralpho,

“Vestrissimus,

“G. BARWICK.”

“Pray, what are they doing about the new Camden? I have many notes; I intend to look them over, and put them in clean paper.”

In the midst of a letter, generally in a similar strain, on the 16th of November following, after telling how a Dyneley “married my grandfather Ackroyd’s daughter, and my grandmother and her daughter Dyneley both laid-in at the same time,” &c., Mr. Plaxton breaks off in quite another tone,—“I have been all the last week paying my last respects to poor Dr. Talbot; he is a dying, and I am persuaded he cannot hold out two days longer; it is a consumption. God, give all grace to remember our great change, and in care to prepare for it.”

The Rev. James Talbot, D.D., Rector of Spofforth, whom Thoresby had met with the other clergymen at Wetherby, died shortly afterward. Mr. Plaxton wrote again,—

The worthy Dr. Talbot was buried on Tuesday.\* By his will he ordered his curate to preach his funeral sermon; and that no other mention should be made of him, than as an emblem of that mortality to which we are all subject . . . He was really a great man; a man of wonderful learning and facts. God knows when Spofforth will have such another! He is the first rector who has been interred there for many

\* The Spofforth Register says on Nov. 23rd, which was Tuesday; consequently, there is an error in the date given to Mr. Plaxton’s letter, “Saturday Morning, Nov. 26.”

years, and the first that left any legacy to the parish\* . . . his successor will come to a regular and well ordered parish, to a good house and fine gardens; and, if a good man, will have the fairest directions left that ever rector had, in all things relating to his dues, for the Doctor has wrote two books of the rights of his Christian Church at Spofforth. Adieu, dear Ralpho, may you and I lead the life of Dr. Talbot, and may our last end be like his."

In the British Museum† there is a curious letter from Mr. Plaxton, *alias* Barwick, "To his honoured friend Richard Thornton, Esq., at Leeds," whose appointment to the Recorder-ship had probably left him with less leisure to devote to his friends. It bears the date, Jan. 27 1707-8:—

"Well the old Adage holds good still Mors sequuntur Honores, the old Christian lawyer was worth twenty of your new Recorders; he was truly humble, courteous and good natured, but your Recorder is advanced to the chair of the scornful, despiseth his quondam friends and admirers, and is as proud of his dignity as Jerry Bairstow was of his Mayoralty.‡ Well, go thy ways, Richard Thornton, thou was an honest and good man, a friend in whom my soul delighteth; but your spick and span new Recorder, your Minstrels of the new edition, are not comparable to the old church musician. Ralph Thoresby has well observed that Leeds (which he calls a Villa Regia) may this your boast of three great things. 1st, of a new High Sheriff, to serve a turn; 2ndly, of a pair of new Gallows (built by one of their members), where rogues may take a turn; 3rdly, of a new Recorder to do many a good turn, so that I find those

\* A record of benefactions in Spofforth Church commences with a bequest of the interest of £10 by the Rev. James Talbot, D.D., to be expended in bread for the poor. There is a small tablet to his memory against the north wall of the Chancel.

† Additional M.S.S. 4275. The letter is written with many contractions, as common at the time.

‡ Jeremiah Bairstow was elected Mayor of Leeds in 1706. His freedom with the Mace, resented in so marked a way by the Corporation as a body, accords with that which is here said of him.

three will be coeval, the two former may hug one another, the latter I hope will slip out of the halter. Many a good letter have I had from the brave Christian lawyer, which like a cup of old Malaga would warm and cheer my cold heart, but that happiness was too good to last long. I seldom hear or see him, like an Anchorite I am condemn'd to old Ellis and the Litany. And though I seldom hear from R. T. yet I now and then drop a bond for him, and pray for the conversion of all Jews, Infidels, Vicecomes and Recorders. I hope in some lucky hour he will remember his old friend being

his Truly,

BARWICK."

"I give you the trouble of a letter by Will. Ellis, Junr. pardon my rudeness."\*

Among the letters published by Mr. Hunter are two dated St. Thomas (21st Dec.) 1708, when Thoresby was about to visit London. In one of them Mr. Plaxton says,—

"I would have you visit my old friend Dr. Martin Lister: tell him I am still alive, and have the same value for him which I had in 1672, for so long I have known him. . . . I am sure my son George will do you all the service he can. I have written to him, and send the letter to be delivered by yourself. I have also written to my friend Dr. Lister, and I am glad I can send it by so good a hand." And in a postscript,—“You may read over these two letters, date them, and seal them up. . . . Be sure you see my mother, and let me trouble you with this bundle of letters to her and my brother Will. and sister Anne. All duties and service to them all.”

The letter to Dr. Lister is also in the British Museum.† It

\* In the same volume, which is part of the Birch M.S.S., and is entitled ‘Letters of Divines,’ there is another letter from Plaxton to Mr. Thornton, written the Midsummer before Mr. Thornton’s death. “Yesterday,” wrote Mr. Plaxton, “I made a second visit to the Scheleton of Harwood Castle, I viewed as much as my activity would allow.” He then gives account of the coats-of-arms which he had seen there, with trickings of seven. The letter concludes,—“My daughter has a lad, and he shouts Ka Ka Ka bravely.”

† Additional M.S.S. 4276.

is dated Barwick-in Elmet, Dec<sup>r</sup> the 1708 ; as the blank remains unfilled up, Thoresby had not done all that he was told to do :—

“Dear Friend,

If you still retain any faint ideas, or scattered notions, of an old servant of yours, still known by the name of G. Plaxton, let this endeavour to restore them to their first gaiety, and furbish them up in your memory. Our good friend Mr. Ralph Thoresby has made a winter voyage to the great Town, and amongst the curiosities of London is resolved to pay his service to Dr. Lister, and promiseth me to deliver this poor billet to your own hands, it comes only as a testimony of those obligations I have to your worth, and to offer you a thousand thanks and services. I am much the same man as when you first knew me, only the weight of 60 years hangs heavily on my shoulders. I am now, in my declining days, removed northward, and have fixed my last station at Barwick-in-Elmet near Bramham Moor, where I hope to end the short course I have to run. Mr. Thoresby will give you a full account of me, he is my good friend, and one for whom I have a true respect and value. I shall be very glad to have an account of your welfare at his return, and if any learned news be amongst you men of letters, vouchsafe a little to

“Dr. Sir

—“Your most faithful and obliged Fr<sup>d</sup> and Serv<sup>t</sup>

“G. PLAXTON.

“What if I should long to see your Apitius.”

“Mr. Thoresby is still busy, industrious and rummaging all the old corners of antiquity.”

On Monday the 27th of December, and in company with Alderman Milner, Thoresby started upon his London journey; found the ways much better than expected, though about Doncaster had been flooded, and they got safely to Barnby Moor for the night. He adds,—“I ought to do myself that justice that, though a very sinful creature, I was sincerely thankful to God in secret prayer.” And he commences his account of

the next day,—“Being afraid of omitting secret prayer (if I should lie till my chamber-fellow got up) I arose two hours too soon as it happened, but after I had retired lay down till past five.”

Leaving Barnby Moor, they found “some of the ways very bad, especially about the Eel-pie-house near Tuxford, where, the ice breaking in, it was both troublesome and dangerous; but,” continues Thoresby, avowing constitutional timidity, “I was supported far beyond my natural temper.” They had to ferry across the Trent, “also over several meadows, and ride over others for above a mile together, very deep to the saddle skirts frequently, and dangerous, especially upon a long causeway, which the guide was forced to plumb every step, because if we had slipped off upon either side, we had been plunged in a considerable depth of water, &c.” They staid little at Newark, and rode forward to Grantham. Thoresby noticed nothing new this journey except “a delicate parsonage house at Cromwell, thought to be one of the best in England; it was built by Mr. Thwaites, a Yorkshireman (formerly school-master at Doncaster), at the expense of £1,000.”

Much snow fell during the night, and on Wednesday they made slow progress; were—

“Obliged to attend the coach (from Lincoln) and in a most tempestuous day of snow and wind, as most persons ever travelled upon, reached only Stamford, and caught each of us a fall, though blessed be God! without any damage. Evening, got an opportunity in secret to bless God for mercies vouchsafed, and implore further protection, though had a Scotch physician for my chamber-fellow.”

On the way, they had passed a “number of horsing-stones, each of three steps, but cut out of one entire stone, inscribed E. B. 1708.” They had been set up by Edmund Boulter, Esq., uncle to Thoresby’s friend, John Boulter, of Gawthorpe and Harewood.

The drifted snow now blocked the roads for both coaches and horsemen. The Lincoln coach had overturned four or five times on the Wednesday; and the roads had become so dangerous that a guide for other travellers could not be had for money. Thoresby "had the agreeable converse of Mr. Clarke, Rector of Somerby, Com. Line., a Yorkshire Author and Pious Divine;" went to forenoon prayers at church, made his customary search after monuments and benefactions, not finding any that were new to him, and finally grew melancholy, despite good company, being "troubled for loss of time and money." There they remained all Friday,—

"Could hardly bring my naughty heart to a due compliance with this demur, though necessitated; and had also good accommodation, and excellent company of my dear fellow-traveller, the honest parson, a major and lawyer, physician, &c., all in the same condemnation from different parts; the clergyman with this accent, that though but thirteen miles from home he could neither get back nor forward."

Thoresby again went to church, and pursued his enquiry after benefactors, going to see "a stately Bede-house," erected by William Brown in 1495, and some alms-houses lately built by Mr. Truesdale. The Rector of Somerby entertained him with an account of a couple of narrow escapes of Archbishop Sterne when a boy, once when after a jackdaw's nest in a church steeple, and once when nearly killed by a water-wheel. But there he had to remain all Saturday, no public prayer or preaching, and "scarce any market, few even of the neighbours daring to travel." Poor Thoresby says,—"I grudged at the expense, both of time and moneys, which went fast, though I husbanded it to the best I could." On Sunday he walked to All Saints', took a benefactor's epitaph, heard the Rector of Somerby in the morning pray "excellently," and preach "excellently and practically;" another sermon in the afternoon by a Mr. Atway, "against a backbiting tongue," yet was dissatisfied

with his day. But after four days detention at Stamford, on Monday morning they went on:—

“Having the encouragement of some of the Scotch gentry, who must of necessity be at the Parliament at the time appointed,\* we ventured upon our journey (being fourteen in company); having the post and a guide, we found some part of the road better than we expected, considering the dismal account we had of it; others very bad, and the snow terribly drifted.”

They arrived safely at Huntingdon where were,—

“Four churchyards, three steeples, but only two churches and one parson (to which some add no preacher, that it seems not being his talent). I find by some verses my dear father made for his diversion upon a London journey, 1658, that two of the churches were pulling down that year:

“At Huntingdon, a four church town,  
My muse was sore perplexed,  
To see two of them pulling down, &c.”†

More snow fell, and on Tuesday,—

“Our guide turned back at the mile’s end, and durst adventure no further for fear of his life, as he said; but a good Providence directed us to a better; and though we found it very severe travelling, especially about Royston (where the people came running out of their houses to stare upon us with amazement), we got safe to Puckeridge, where we lodged comfortably.”

Having thus conquered thirty-two miles that day, they staid the night within twenty-six of London. On Wednesday the 5th of January, the tenth day of their journey, Thoresby, with his company,—

“Overtook the Scotch porters, and got before them to London, though at Enfield had the mischance to be plunged almost belly-deep by the breaking in of the ice, that the water run in at my pockets and stained my papers as well as at the boot-tops.”

\* The Session had commenced in November, but two days before Christmas Parliament adjourned to Monday, the 10th of January.

† This quotation is not without historical value, but it does not enhance John Thoresby’s reputation as a poet.

That evening he went with Alderman Milner to the Temple, to see Mr. Blythman, a son of the late Recorder of Leeds and of the same name, Jasper, and Mr. George Plaxton, junior; but well might the humourous Rector of Berwick-in-Elmet speak of Thoresby's "Winter voyage to the great Town!"

With each of the "cousins" this was a business journey, but their business differed as widely as did their respective circumstances. Alderman Milner's well explains the "Alderman Million" of the Rector of Berwick. Upon the day on which Parliament rose for Christmas the Royal Assent was given by Commission to "An Act for granting an Aid to Her Majesty, to be raised by a Land Tax in Great Britain, for the service of the year 1709." And on the second day after their arrival in London, Thoresby "was with Cousin Milner at the Bank of England, a place of vast business and crowds; and after at the Exchequer, where he advanced thirteen thousand pounds upon the Land Tax of four shillings in the pound." And this done, Thoresby further accompanied Alderman Milner "to meet Mr. Tregenna and the Plaxton, about his purchase of the two Lordships of Nun-Appleton and Bolton Percy."

Mr. Markham in his *Life of Fairfax* gives particulars concerning the sale of these estates. He states that Mary, only child of the great Parliamentary General and widow of the Duke of Buckingham,\* had a life interest in them and claimed

\* Woods Athenæ mentions a M.S. note of Dr. Bryan Fairfax's on the Duke, which says that he got warm in hunting at Hemsley, sat on the cold ground, caught ague and fever, and died in three days. Much in contrast with Pope's famous lines, "In the worst inn's worst room," &c., is a notice of him in Gadbury's Almanack for 1689:—"On the 16th. day (of April), 1687 died the Lord *George* his Grace, Duke of *Buckingham*, at his House, *Hemsley-Castle* in *Yorkshire*, in the 59th. Year of his Age.

"*It is very observable, that in 1685, viz. about two Years before his Death, this Excellent Prince, as if inspir'd by Heaven, published a Discourse pressing the great necessity of an Ease to tender Consciences, as a happy Prodromus of his Majesty's most gracious Indulgence to Dissenters.*"

This is one among a number of amusing evidences that the said Almanack, which was Astrological, had got into print just before the flight of James the Second, in November 1688.



more; that harassed by her late husband's creditors she attempted to sell them to a Lady Arton, but that the fifth Lord Fairfax asserting his reversionary interest the negotiation was stopped; that the Duchess dying, and subsequently Lord Fairfax, the widow of the fifth Lord, her son being a minor, sold his Yorkshire estates in order to free from encumbrance Leeds Castle in Kent, and other estates in that county of which she herself was the heiress,\* whereupon Buckingham's creditors renewed their attempt upon Nun-Appleton; that the widow, Lady Fairfax, suffered it to succeed, notwithstanding representations made to her; and that, by reason of its questionable title, Alderman Milner purchased the estate at £8,000 under value, on the advice of Mr. Witton, a lawyer who became his son-in-law, and who had been employed by Lord Fairfax the General in drawing a settlement of the estate in question. But as the fifth Lord Fairfax did not die until January 1710,† it follows from Thoresby's account that Alderman Milner had sought to buy the estate in the said Lord's lifetime, although it seems that some impediment arose; for on the eve of their return home after above six weeks stay in London, Thoresby says "I met at Mr. Blythman's with the Alderman, who was justly concerned for an unexpected disappointment by Mr. T. and P. (apparently Tregenna and Plaxton), which kept us late and to no purpose." Alderman Milner ultimately made the purchase, as before mentioned;‡ and took Thoresby with him to visit it in April 1711.

They had also public business on hand. The day after Milner advanced money to the Exchequer, he and Thoresby walked to Sir William Strickland's, then one of the Members

\* Catharine, daughter and heiress of Thomas, Lord Colepepper.

† So in Markham, and Burke's Peerage supports it. The *Ducatus* gives the year 1709, using the Old Style if 1710 be correct; but taking either year, Alderman Milner went to London about the purchase before Lord Fairfax died.

‡ *Ante*, Page 370, note.

for Yorkshire, "about the designed bill against straining cloth and making exorbitant lengths." Two days later, the 10th of January (on which day Parliament resumed), accompanied by Mr. Arthington, they went to "the Parliament-house, to speak to Sir William Strickland, the Lord Downe and Mr. Lowther, about the cloth bill; and on the evening of the 13th, Thoresby transcribed "the Act as designed for our Manufacture." Leave was given in the House of Commons on the 29th to bring in the bill, Mr. Lowther, Mr. Montague, and Lord William Powlett to prepare it, Lord Downe and Sir William Strickland, the Yorkshire Members, being afterward added. The bill had to be re-introduced on account of an informality, some things being inserted which ought to have been left blank. The new bill having been twice read, was referred to Committee, Sir William Strickland, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and others being named; with the general addition, "all for the Counties of York, Cumberland, Wilts, Somerset, Gloucester, Worcester, and Hereford," the Kent and Essex Members being subjoined a week later. Petitions came from Wakefield and Huddersfield stating that "whole thick Kerseys and whole thick Plains" mainly employed those districts; that traders and dealers had suffered by "overstretching and straining," and praying for a penalty on all makers straining, "above half-a-yard in length," said Wakefield, "in a piece not above twenty yards long," added Huddersfield; which, we may suppose, in the former petition was left to be understood as the usual length of the piece. The bill passed expeditiously, a slight amendment made by the Lords being agreed to on the 4th of April.\*

\* Commons Journals. The Act 7 Anne c. 13, "for the better ascertaining the Lengths and Breadths of Woollen Cloth made in the County of York," required ends, or half-lengths, not to exceed 23 yards, and long or whole cloths 46 yards, when fully wet, and be at least  $5\frac{1}{2}$  quarters broad within the list; whole thick Kerseys and Plains to be not under  $17\frac{1}{2}$  yards long, and  $3\frac{1}{2}$

Thoresby's own errand to London is glanced at in the letter which Parson Plaxton wrote to him when about to leave home :—

“My Lord Pembroke may now do you some signal service; he is not only your friend, but in such a post of dignity as may advance deserving persons. He knows you and your worth, and may easily do you a favour, and such as may be beneficial to you and yours, and by which you may be in a condition of serving him. As to your book, if Dr. Hickee, that excellent person, be still alive, he will befriend you with his advice and assistance.”

Thomas, eighth Earl of Pembroke, after the decease of Prince George of Denmark, in October 1708, was re-appointed to the office of Lord High Admiral, from which he had been displaced on the accession of Queen Anne, in order that it might be given to Her Majesty's Consort.\* His courtesy and kindness to Thoresby, when Thoresby visited London in the summer of 1701, has been told;† and immediately upon Lord Pembroke's return to the Admiralty, Thoresby was urged by friends to solicit his patronage. He wrote to the Archbishop of York :—

“Nov. 23, 1708.

“My Lord,

The Earl of Pembroke being, to the great joy of the nation, made Lord High Admiral of England, I am advised by many of my best friends, and particularly Mr. Thornton (who presents his humble duty to your Grace), to make use of this good provision by applying to his Lordship for some place, that may enable me the more comfortably to provide for my poor family; and I am downright told, that I shall be defective in my duty if I sit still:

quarters broad. It was repealed along with many others in 1809, by 49 George III. c. 109, on the ground that they were “not only unnecessary, but if enforced might be extremely injurious.” The length and breadth of woollen-cloth pieces was regulated by statute so long ago as the year 1328, the second of Edward the Third.

\* He was offered a compensatory pension, but declined it.

† Vol. I., page 413.

this indeed is a moving argument, for though I could as to myself contentedly sit down with butter-milk and brown bread rather than be troublesome to my friend, yet I confess, that this for my poor children very sensibly affects me; and indeed, I am so apt to be overwhelmed with anxiety and melancholy when I considerably think of it, that I dare scarce think at all, much less so often as becomes a man of common prudence, of my domestic affairs. My great objection to my friends is, that I know not what place I am fit for, and I should make conscience of intruding myself into a place that I was not in some measure capacitated to discharge, whereas fidelity and diligence is all I can pretend to; and it is too late for one that is turned of fifty, to begin to learn new arts; but I am told there are some places that may be honestly executed by a sufficient deputy, and if I could but (without the hazard of removing my family) obtain a moderate competency, it would abundantly satisfy me, it not being great matters I am seeking for, but only what may enable me to give suitable education to my poor children, especially to my two boys, for whom I am most solicitous; because I am now growing old, and so are most of my friends too, of whom I have many, that if I wanted, would be assisting to me, and, if they should survive, to my children, for the undeserved respect to their parent; but these thoughts do too pressingly move the affections, that I must break off abruptly, only begging your Lordship's prayers for

Your Grace's most obliged, humble Servant,

R. Th."

"I beg the favour of a line to direct me what is the best method to use; if it was summer, I should make personal address to his Lordship, but severe cold much affects my head. I beg pardon for any boldness herein; I could not use this freedom to discover my circumstances to any other person, except Mr. Thornton, to whom I am infinitely obliged for his advice on all occasions.

"What I most humbly beg of your Grace is, that your goodness would first pardon this presumption, and in the next, give your advice whether I should, and in what manner I should apply to his Lordship, wherein you will very much add to the very many and great favours conferred on, my Lord,

Yours, &c."

Archbishop Sharp was in Town when the above was written to him, and he replied as follows:—

“Westminster, Dec. 3 1708.”

“Good Mr. Thoresby,

“I had your letter by the last post but one. I am truly ready to do you any service I can; and to show you that I am so, I took the boldness this night to read this letter to my Lord Pembroke. I find he does remember you, and I believe he has so good an opinion of you, that he would serve you if it was in his power. But he says there is no place or employment in his disposal (as Lord High Admiral) that can be served by a deputy: all that he can put into employment must be versed in sea affairs. But he says further, that as the Queen hitherto used to grant warrants for the education of young gentlemen in navigation, so now it is in his power to grant such warrants; so that if you have a mind to breed up one of your sons for a seaman, I do believe I can prevail with his lordship to grant such a warrant to him. To explain this matter to you, as far as I understood it from my Lord's discourse. When a young gentleman has obtained this warrant, he is ordered to such a ship (a boy of sixteen, fourteen or twelve years of age is capable of it); in that ship he is committed to the care of some there, who shall instruct him in mathematics and navigation; in two years time, if he be a good proficient, he is capable of a midshipman's place, which will yield him some profits. In two or three years more, he is capable of a lieutenant's place, and then he may live of himself. But, says my Lord, the young men that are thus entered will be for a considerable time a charge upon their relations; for the Queen allows them nothing but their education and their diet; but as for their clothing, and their charges when they come on shore, those must be borne by their parents or their friends, and that will not amount to less than 30% or 40% per annum.

“I perceive that gentlemen of the first quality have been thus educated, as particularly my Lord Dursley (my Lord Barclay's \* eldest son) who has now a flag. Whether you

\* Berkeley. Mr. Hunter observes that the above orthography is worth preserving, as showing the pronunciation of the name to be then as now. Lord Dursley succeeded as third Earl of Berkeley in 1710.

have any inclination that either of your sons should be bred up in this way, or whether they themselves have any genius for it, or inclination to it, you must be judge.

"I must add one thing more. My Lord tells me, that when this present war is at an end, there will not be near so great a number of the Queen's ships kept up as is now, and consequently preferments in Her Majesty's will be harder to come at.

"I have told you all that I have to say in answer to your letter. I beg my humble service to Mr. Thornton. I am sincerely, with all respect and good wishes, Sir,

"Your very affectionate friend,

"J. EBOR."

Thoresby returned a letter of thanks to the Archbishop on the 13th. "Though," he wrote,—

"As the circumstances of my family are at present there be no prospect of advantage: for, not to insist upon the charges (which, for some years, would be as much as the whole family has to live upon) my elder boy wants four or five years before he could be fit for such a place; \* and, which alone, I suppose, would incapacitate him for a marine employ, could never eat flesh meat since he was born, lives wholly upon milk, &c., and my younger is not yet five years of age. It is their being so young makes me so solicitous for them; but, having done what was thought my duty, I fully acquiesce and desire to commit them to the Divine Providence, that is abundantly able to provide for them."

Thoresby nevertheless expressed his gratitude for the kindness of Lord Pembroke, begging the Archbishop "to acquaint his Lordship therewith."

Thoresby's first walk, on the 6th of January 1709, the morning after his arrival in London, was to "Westminster, and from thence to Petty France, † to wait of his Grace my Lord Archbishop of York," who received him very kindly, and with

\* He was then in his eleventh year.

† Corresponding with the present York Street, South of St. James's Park.

whom he dined. On a second visit, five days later, he found the Archbishop unwell. He gives this account of a visit to the Earl of Pembroke's:—

“Took coach with Mr. Roberts and Dr. Pratt (the Duke of Ormond's Chaplain) to Sir Andrew Fountain's, who, according to appointment, conducted us to the Lord High Admiral's, who entertained us most agreeably with the view of his most noble collection of Greek and Roman medals, much enlarged since I saw it before, and particularly his Excellency has procured a Roman Bos, which weighs five pounds of their monies. It is quadrangular; on the one side has the figure of an ox, the other side is worn like a honeycomb with its extreme age (I have since seen the draught of it in Baron Spanhemius's new edition of his *Numismata*, &c.); his Lordship has also a set of the Roman weights, and the most rare coins that ever I saw; amongst others, one with three heads upon an oblong square, yet minted on the lesser round ones. It is incomparably the best collection in the nation, if not in the universe, and his Lordship was particularly kind to me (as a countryman I presume) particularly shaking me by the hand in a most familiar manner, desiring to see me whenever I should come to town, &c.”

It is added in the Review, that Lord Pembroke offered him for his son one of the education warrants described in the Archbishop's letter.

In this matter, the application made and the response to it were creditable to both sides, and will bear criticism by the most severe of reformers or economists. But it is evident from the correspondence that before leaving home Thoresby had abandoned all idea of official help from the Lord High Admiral. The other business to which the Rector of Berwick adverted had more reality.

Very eminent as a scholar and author was George Hicke, D.D., a Yorkshireman born in 1642, of Newsome, in the Parish of Kirkby Wiske; he became chaplain to the Duke of Lauderdale, eventually Dean of Worcester, but a non-juror at the

Revolution\* Though Burnet calls him "an ill-tempered man," he possessed the esteem of others who were theologically and politically opposed to him. Plaxton in his letter, besides calling him "that excellent person," says "I never had the favour of seeing Dr. G. Hickes, but am in love with him and all his writings; for he is the greatest man I have yet met withal, and deserves the thanks of all such as have a relish for learning." He appears to have been acquainted with Mr. Thornton, the Leeds Recorder, whose subscription of a guinea to a new edition of Dr. Hickes's *Septentrional Grammar*† is acknowledged by Archdeacon Nicholson in a letter to Thoresby, October 22 1698; Thoresby having sent the like subscription through the Archbishop of York.‡ In the following month Dr. Edmund Gibson wrote to Thoresby in its behalf,—

"Our Friend, the Archdeacon of Carlisle, has been very industrious among his acquaintance in those parts; and it is possible he may have applied himself to you; if so, I ask your pardon for this trouble. But if this be the first notice of the design, let me make my request to you (for the sake of the work and the learned author) to use your interest on this occasion, with such of your friends as are likely to help forward so useful and honourable a work."

Thoresby's interview with Dr. Hickes in 1701 has already been mentioned.§ Subsequently, they corresponded, and on the 30th October 1703, Dr. Hickes wrote to Thoresby as follows:—

\* As Mr. Hunter observes, he belonged to a family of extremes. His brother, John Hickes, whom Burnet calls "a violent preacher among the Dissenters," was executed as an adherent of Monmouth's in 1685; and it was upon the charge of having harboured him and another that Lady Lisle became the victim of Jeffries.

† A Grammar of Saxon, Gothic and Icelandic, and in the new edition of Francick also. It was first published at Oxford, in 1689, "*Institutiones Grammaticæ Anglo-Saxonicæ*," &c.

‡ In another letter, Archdeacon Nicholson afterward informed Thoresby that the Dean and Chapter of Durham had subscribed £20 to Dr. Hickes's book. Besides the guinea copies, there was a more costly one on Royal paper.

§ Vol. I, page 416.



“ Sir,

“ I think I formerly told you, that the *Numismata Saxonica* would be one part of my great work,\* which is almost ready to be published, in two great folios. The gentleman that undertook this part is very fit for it, being as otherwise a general scholar, so particularly a great nummist, as famous as any at home or abroad, for his knowledge of coins. His name is Sir Andrew Fountaine, formerly bred in Christ's Church, Oxon, well known to my Lord Archbishop of York. He hath heard that you have many of the Northumbrian Kings, with which he is very desirous to crown his work, having had great supplies from the curious in all parts; and we make it our joint earnest request to you, that you would be pleased to send up those coins to us, for which I will be bound to restore them in every security; or the draughts of them, if you have them suitably delineated, or, if not, that you would be pleased to get them suitably drawn for us, and whosoever you shall employ to do them, shall be rewarded by him. I have had the confidence to desire manuscripts and coins from all persons and places; and my success, who was never yet denied, makes me thus impudent to desire your coins, or a draught of them. If you grant us either of these favours, you will oblige him to make an honourable and immortal mention of you in his preface, and me to do the same in the catalogue of my benefactors, and ever to be, Sir,

“ Your most obliged servant,

“ GEORGE HICKES.”

“ Direct to me at my home in Ormond-street, in Red Lion-fields.”

Thoresby responded by sending the coins asked for. They were taken by Mr. Kirkshaw, most likely Mr. Samuel Kirkshaw, or Kirshaw, the name being given both ways in the *Ducatus*, whose father and brother were Rectors of Ripley, and

\* “ *Antiquæ Literaturæ Septentrionalis Libri duo: Quorum primus Georgii Hiccesii S. T. P. Linguarum Veterum Septentrionalium Thesaurum Criticum, etc. Complectitur. Alter Continet Humphredi Wanleii Librorum Veterum Septentrionalium Catalogum, etc. Fol. Oxoniæ, 1705.*”

whose mother was a Sykes. Dr. Hickes gratefully acknowledged them :—

“I sent for Sir Andrew Fountaine, and delivered the box and your letter to him, and let him see by your letter to me how much confidence you put in us both. We are both sensible of the great obligations you have laid upon us in committing so considerable a treasure to our trust; for indeed it is the finest and most curious nest of coins that I ever saw of that kind;\* and I do not wonder that you take such delight in them.”

“Sir Andrew will, in a little time, go to Oxford, and deliver the British coins of Mr. Lhwyd.” Dr. Hickes wished to know where a bound copy of his *Thesaurus* might be sent to Thoresby,—“as an acknowledgement due to your good wishes to it, and as a benefactor to it by your Coins.” He then touched in kindly terms upon Thoresby’s personal troubles :—“I am sorrow to hear you have of late suffered such losses, whether immediately by the hand of God or the injustice of men: and I pray God, if it be his will, to make them up unto you; and in the mean time to comfort you, especially by a cheerful submission to his will, which is the result of his infinite wisdom, who knows what is better for us than we ourselves do.”

In 1707 Thoresby sent to Dr. Hickes an account of some anticipator of Cock Lane, a “Knocking Ghost,” for which Dr. Hickes thanked him, and wished to know “whether the knocking ceased upon the dividend?” It was in the next year that Dr. Hickes wrote the letter to Thoresby with information concerning Mr. John Mauleverer, mentioned in a note to the preceding chapter; and in the same letter he again adverted to Thoresby’s troubles :—

\* Thoresby quotes this in a paragraph of his Museum Catalogue, inserted for the benefit of young students of coins; but he adds that since Dr. Hickes wrote this in 1703,—“Sir Andrew Fountaine hath made himself the Master, at a vast Expence, of a much greater Treasure, which the learned in Foreign Parts, as well as nigher Hand, are very desirous to have the Catalogue of.” He states in the Diary that Sir Andrew gave “half-a-crown for every Saxon penny that could be got,” [while in Ireland with Lord Pembroke].

"I am sorry for the late provocation you received: but God sent it for the further exercise and trial of your patience; and without much patience in this World there is no attaining of happiness in the next. That sort of people never forgive those who leave them, or appear against them. When I first wrote against them, they sent to Oxford, to get a strict enquiry made, if ever, from my first admittance, to the time I left the University, I had committed any one scandalous crime. But I praise God, and give him the glory of it, who preserved me by his grace from all scandalous sins, they could not hear of any one scandalous misdoing of me. And it is almost forty years since I have avoided all occasions of dealing with them in Worldly matters, or of being acquainted with any of them, but in order to their conversion, in which, by God's blessing, I have not been without success."

It is to be inferred from this, that Thoresby had been grieved by some spiteful conduct on the part of an unforgiving nonconformist; but that he should make his confidant on such a subject the non-juror who wrote as above is rather remarkable. It is possible that on Thoresby's part familiarity may have been fostered by a vague idea of relationship; for Dr. Hickes, according to a pedigree in the *Ducatus*, belonged to a branch of the family of Alderman Marmaduke Hickes, whom Thoresby called "cousin" on the strength of their connexion through the Idles. Thoresby's consulting him in regard to the intended History of Leeds is comprehensible enough. In the letter just quoted from, Dr. Hickes expresses gratification at Thoresby's intention of giving memoirs of the former Vicar, Mr. Milner; and he offers information concerning John Kettlewell, the then noted non-juror, brother of the reading and arithmetic master of the school to which Thoresby went in his youth.\* A little later he wrote,—"I hope to prevail with Mr. Nelson to send you a catalogue of Mr. Kettlewell's works." Dr. Hickes and Mr. Robert Nelson each wrote an

\* Vol. I, page 9.

account of Kettlewell, and the two combined substantially form the *Life* prefixed to his published works. Dr. Hickes also sent Thoresby a list of his own works, with an injunction of secrecy in regard to some of them:—

“I have made a catalogue of all that I have published, and to show what confidence I have in you, I have put in some pamphlets I wrote since the Revolution, to which I never set my name, though some of them have had several editions, which are not expressed. One of them is an answer to your Archbishop’s farewell Sermon preached at St. Giles’s, but this is the secret I trust you with, and the more absolute trust I put in you, the greater obligation to secrecy I lay upon you. The catalogue for this reason will be sent you by another hand; and for the same reason I send it in another hand, I must enjoin you to burn this letter, which makes mention of it.”

Dr. Hickes should have remembered, like Mr. Plaxton, that he was writing to a man who preserved autographs; but, as Mr. Hunter remarks, the secrecy could only be intended for his lifetime, as he knew that Thoresby wanted the list for ultimate publication. This letter is dated 14 Oct: 1708, and the list specifies twenty-five separate publications, besides eight Dedicatory Recommendations and Prefaces to Works by others. Most of them relate to the Ecclesiastical controversies of the time; the reply to the Archbishop is entitled,—“An Apology for the New Separation, in a Letter to Dr. John Sharp, Archbishop of York, occasioned by his farewell Sermon, preached on the 28th of June [1691] at St. Giles’s in-the-Fields.” It appears that Thoresby asked permission to impart the secret to Mr. Thornton, and to this Dr. Hickes assented in a short note written a little more than a month before Thoresby left home for London. And in this note he said,—“I have been very ill of a fever and strangury, and my constitution is quite broken, so that I am now useless.”

Thoresby, the day after his arrival in London, called upon

Dr. Hickes, but failed to meet with him. The *Ducatus* was in part written, and he had brought his manuscript for the Doctor's perusal. His next call was successful,—

“Walked to Dr. Hickes, our learned countryman; was kindly received, and he promised to peruse my M.S. Topography.”

This was on Monday, the 10th of January 1709, and on the Friday,—

“Waited of the learned Dr. Hicks, who was pleased to express himself very favourably of the part of my M.S. I had left for his perusal, and gave me directions from some authors not to be met with in these northern parts, to enlarge upon in some of the etymologies, which I rather feared some would think too tedious before.”

28th.—“Walked to Dr. Hicks's, who having courteously perused several other sheets of my manuscript Topography, obliged me with variety of readings from some rare Dano-Saxon authors. Afterward, visited his good neighbour, the pious and ingenious Robert Nelson, Esq., with whose excellent converse I was very well pleased.”

He presented Thoresby with his “two excellent Treatises of the Feasts and Fasts of the Church, and of the Sacrament.” Again, on the 2nd of February,—

“Walked to Ormond-street for my kind friend Dr. Hicks's sentiments (which were very candid) upon the last papers I have had the leisure to transcribe of my Topography; took leave of my said worthy and learned friend, and the excellent Mr. Nelson.”

But Thoresby again says on the 10th,—

“Having heard by Dr. Sloane of Dean Hicks's dangerous illness, went to visit my said dear friend, whom, blessed be God, I found much better, though very weak and pained.”

On the day after, Hickes returned the last of the manuscript submitted to him. Thoresby took further counsel with his other friend, the editor of the *Britannia*,—

"Passed the Thames to Lambeth, to visit Dr. Gibson, afflicted for the loss of his only son; the worthy Dr. received me kindly, and promised me his free thoughts and advice about my own M.S. Topography of this parish, and received my additions to the three Ridings of Yorkshire, for the new Camden, with thanks; in return, had a sort of storm; the wind and tide being contrary, the water was very boisterous, and, as I thought, not without danger; but the Lord delivered me."

The intervals between these several engagements were devoted to a round of visits, chiefly to persons of rank, and to literary celebrities. He met with his former friend, Dr. Moore,\* recently made Bishop of Ely, when dining at Archbishop Sharpe's; where was also Mr. John Chamberlayne, who in the same year published his "*Magnæ Britanniae Notitia*, or the present State of Great Britain," an extension of the "*Angliæ Notitia*" of his father, Dr. Edward Chamberlayne. The Bishop of Ely at once pressed Thoresby to dine with him, which he afterward did, meeting with,—

"Very agreeable company, the Dean of Lincoln and other clergy, but especially the obliging R. Hales, Esquire, to whose pious endeavours the good Providence of God has given admirable success, in reconciling the reformed churches abroad (Calvinists and Lutherans) one to another (so that they not only meet together, but some of them join in the Sacrament), and both to the Church of England, so that in many places they are willing to admit of Episcopacy, as I am credibly informed."

He dined at Lady Howard's, in company with the premier Peer, Thomas, the eighth Duke of Norfolk, who showed a portrait of his kinsman, the late Cardinal Howard, to Thoresby. "There were three generations at table, the Duke, his mother and grandmother." He was thrice at the Countess of Burling-

\* Vol. I, page 413.

ton's, "a prudent and notable lady," the first time with Alderman Milner, when "she promised £20 for the repairing and beautifying the high quire in the Church at Leeds;" and, says Thoresby, she "was very obliging in showing me the pedigree of the Cliffords and Boyles," the first of which he collated with one of his own drawing, and the second transcribed on his second visit a couple of days afterward. Both are introduced in the *Ducatus*, where it is stated that the above Boyle pedigree was from "the original M.S. of that ever memorable and celebrated *Richard*, the first Earl of *Cork*, of this most honourable Family." On his third visit, Thoresby transcribed the memoirs of the said Earl, "from the original M.S. of his own writing, upon parchment." \* He walked to Westminster one morning before eight to his friend Nicholson's, Bishop of Carlisle, with whom he spent a couple of hours, until joined by Sir James Dalrymple and others, when all went to the Cottonian Library; and he gives the following account of a visit to Gilbert Burnet, Bishop of Salisbury, the well known historian:—

"Walked to Soho Square to the Bishop of Salisbury's, who entertained me most agreeably with the sight of several valuable curiosities, as the original Magna Charta of King John, supposed to be the very same that he granted to the nobles in the field, it wanting that article about the Church, which, in the exemplars afterwards, was always inserted first; it has part of the great seal also remaining. He showed me also his strong box, with many noble medals of silver and gold, presented to him by the

\* The first Earl of Cork had four sons, who all became Peers. The eldest succeeded to his father's Earldom, and was made also Earl of Burlington; his grandson, second Earl of Burlington, was the husband of the above Countess. She was the daughter and heiress of Viscount Camden. In the Thoresby Correspondence there is a letter signed J. Waite, written in April 1700, and beginning,—“This, by my Lady's command, owning the receipt of yours of the 2d. instant to her Ladyship, and bringing you enclosed a draught of my present Lord Burlington's Arms, with remarks how the colours must be placed. I hope this small sketch will be sufficient to inform the gentleman that is to paint them at large, how the quarterings and colours are distinguished.” Some particulars are then given concerning the family.

Princess Sophia, and other foreign Princes of the House of Hanover, &c., several of them worth about 30*l.* a piece, as to the intrinsic value. But what was the best of all was his pious and excellent converse; for, notwithstanding the censures of a malignant world, that hates everything that is serious, he is, doubtless, an admirable holy and good man, and has one of the best regulated houses in the world."

The next Sunday morning,—

"Coached it with the Alderman to St. Clement's without Temple Bar, to hear the Bishop of Sarum, who had a most moving prayer and sermon; he pressed in the conclusion to charity, for educating poor children, who sung a psalm, after the rest was ended; much fine music, then the organs, and there was collected, as I remember, about 25*l.*, as I was told by the Bishop himself, with whom I dined, according to appointment. He received me most affectionately, and presented me with his lady's book, called a *Method for Devotion*, a serious and excellent treatise, which her modesty used all the art she could to evade being known for the author: she is a lady of great piety and admirable parts, as appeared by her converse with Mr. Grey Nevile, a Member of Parliament, that dined with us."

Thoresby afterward states that Mrs. Burnet appeared to be in perfect health,—

"Yet the next week the first news I heard of her was, that she was dead and buried. But she was indeed ripe for Heaven: see her pious and excellent *Method of Devotion*, which I particularly recommend to my daughter."

The book was reprinted after her death, with a *Life of the Authoress* prefixed to it by the Archbishop of Cashel. She was the Bishop's second wife. Thoresby's first introduction to Bishop Burnet was through the Archbishop of York in 1699; and it arose from his sending to the Archbishop, for Burnet, a letter containing information taken from some old Latin manuscript copies of the Scriptures, of which he possessed several. This the Archbishop enclosed in one of his own,



introductory and recommendatory; and Thoresby received a courteous acknowledgement from the Bishop of Salisbury. Another day he dined "at Mr. Churchill's, a relation of the Duke of Marlborough's, and a worthy Member of Parliament."

Thoresby visited the Wrens, as previously told;\* Sir Andrew Fountaine, and his collection of coins commended in the *Ducatus*; Mr. Kempe, as before mentioned, and his collection; Mr. Bagford, who showed to him "a surprising collection in several vols. of ancient prints and papers, titles of books, &c., in the infancy of the Art of printing," and also gave "his proposals for publishing an Historical Account of the Useful and Universally celebrated Art of Typography, with the Lives of the Ancient Printers, &c.;" and there he met Mr. Jones, author of the Complete History of Europe, begun in 1701. He also, with some expense of time, met with Dr. Kennet, Dean, and afterward Bishop of Peterborough, author of Parochial Antiquities, "yet could do little more than see him." Churchman though he had become, and familiar with Prelates, he did not forget his Nonconformist connections. He visited Dr. Daniel Williams, founder of the Library formerly in Red Cross Street, and now in Grafton Street, near London University. He more than once saw Mr. Calamy, who presented Thoresby "with his excellent Caveat against the New Prophets, for which Her Majesty returned him thanks per a Page of the back-stairs." And again,

"I dined with Dr. Calamy, who, according to promise, afterwards showed me some of my quondam dear friend, Dr. Sampson's paper's, which I was much concerned to find so incomplete; that of the characters of the Assembly of Divines seemed the most perfect, which I borrowed to transcribe what relates to some Yorkshire members."

His former acquaintance and correspondent Dr. Henry

\* Vol. I, page 412.

Sampson, of whose labours Calamy made large use, had died in the year 1700, leaving him for a legacy a valuable manuscript, "with an affecting letter." Oliver Heywood then sent to Thoresby a letter which he had received from Mr. Stretton, and in which it is said that Dr. Sampson's widow talked of sending his papers to Mr. Tong, at Coventry,—“a fit man if he had leisure to make a good improvement of them; but his hands are so full of other business, that it will be lost labour to send them to him.” The Rev. W. Tong was a Presbyterian minister with antiquarian taste akin to Thoresby's, who had visited Thoresby at Leeds, and corresponded with him. He was now in London, and Thoresby visited him,—

“At Mr. Tong's, to peruse some of my late dear friend Dr. Sampson's papers; was troubled to find them in such confusion, and so incomplete; though I think if these, and those in Dr. Calamy's hand, were strictly digested, there might several useful matters be collected from them. Mr. Tong presented me with some noted autographs and three sermons.”

At one time or other, he transcribed freely from Dr. Sampson's Papers, and a number of his transcripts are in the British Museum.

In his account of this sojourn in London, Thoresby for the first time mentions his acquaintance with the Elstobs, a name of some note in the literature of the time:—

“Visited Parson Elstob,\* who has published the most correct edition of Roger Ascham's Epistle, and his ingenious sister Eliza Elstob, who was also born at Newcastle-upon-Tyne; she has already printed a French version with some composesures of her own, and is going to oblige the world with some Saxon tracts, and particularly a correct edition of the Psalms, that of Sir John Spelman's being, indeed, intolerably bad; to which end she has learnt the Latin as well as Saxon; she draws and paints curiously; they both wrote Saxon mottos in my Album, and

\* Rector of St. Swithins.

presented me with her translation of Monsieur Scudery, of Glory, from the French."

There are several letters from this accomplished lady to Thoresby printed in the correspondence, and the first of them, written about five weeks after his return home, is a fitting appendage to the above:—

"March 22, 1708-9.

"Worthy Sir,

"The favour you did us when you were in town brings this trouble upon you; first, to return our thanks for that favour, and to assure you that both my brother and myself were very sorry that we had not the happiness of seeing you again, and likewise to give you the trouble of this specimen, which you were so kind as to say you would show among your friends. The frontispiece to the Homily I desire you will accept; it is St. Gregory giving Commission to St. Augustin to preach the Gospel in England: there will be other ornaments, as borders and letters, which will make the book somewhat dear, but I would willingly have it as beautiful as possible. I design a Latin translation, which, I hope, will not make it less acceptable to the learned. If any are so kind as to encourage this work, I beg the favour of their names; because I design to print them. Be pleased to accept of my brother's humble service, with mine, and excuse this from

"Your most humble servant,

"ELIZABETH ELSTOB."

"Pray, Sir, give my brother's, and my humble service to Dr. Tomlinson and his lady, when you see them." John Tomlinson, M.D., was a physician in Leeds, son of John Tomlinson of Thurgamby, or Thorganby, a few miles from York, who was Captain of Horse in the service of Charles the First.

8 Feb. 1709. "Walked to Dr. Fairfax's at Westminster, my father's, and my good friend, who truly verifies his motto in my album, *Amicorum veterrimus optimus*; he went with me to the Bishop of Rochester's, who showed me some noble original paintings of great value; I saw also there that part of the white

marble altar-piece, with the heads of the Virgin Mary and our Saviour, &c., that the late King James had placed in Westminster Abbey, but was not suffered to continue.”\*

The album spoken of was one which travelled with Thoresby, to receive the autographs of celebrities whose acquaintance he made. While in London this time it had many acquisitions. Signor Cornaro, the Venetian Ambassador, newly made F.R.S.,—“readily obliged me with his motto in my album, and impression of his signet, with the honourable augmentation relating to the union;” to the account of the good company at the Bishop of Ely’s Thoresby adds,—“see their mottos in my travelling Album;” at one Royal Society meeting,—“Francis Roberts, Esq. (the Earl of Radnor’s relation), was chairman, whose hand, with Dr. Harris’s the Lexicographer, and other ingenious gentlemen, I got in my Album;” the Duke of Norfolk, his two brothers and a cousin, wrote in it; so did the famous President of the Royal Society Sir Isaac Newton, with Dr. Mead and some other members; and Baron Spanhemius, Ambassador from the King of Prussia,—“honoured my Album with his name, who is the most celebrated father of the antiquaries of this age.” Such albums were not peculiar to Thoresby, and in addition to his own he bought other two; one from a Welshman, Dr. Lambroch, the other from a Hungarian, Paul P. Jahz Bereny, wherein were “many noted hands, English and Foreigners.” In his Museum Catalogue Thoresby gives 1636 as the date of the first, which had been Thomas Lambroc’s; 1657 of the other, which contained among other autographs, those of Cocceius and Heinsius. He made another purchase, in Moorfields, of “a very rare

\* Dr. Sprat, formerly Dean of Westminster, was raised to the See of Rochester immediately before the accession of James the Second, by whom he was appointed Dean of the Chapel Royal in 1686, and a member of the Ecclesiastical Commission for the same year.

edition of the New Testament in English, printed anno 1536, with lessons from the Old Testament, according to the Salisbury use."

Thoresby attended four Royal Society Meetings at Gresham College; at the first of them,—

"Letters received from foreign parts, as well as several parts of England were read, that gave a dismal account of this storm, which seems to have been universal as to those parts of Europe, and was found by the registers kept of the thermometer &c., to be three degrees colder than the noted frost of 1683-4."\*

He visited the Heralds' Office, and met with special courtesy from Peter Le Neve, Norroy King-at-Arms, against whom he had imbibed some prejudice:—†

"Received a very kind as well as unexpected visit from the obliging Mr. Le Neve, Norroy King-at-Arms, which was the more civil, because I had omitted (not to say neglected, through the insinuations of some of his antagonists) to wait upon him; when at the Heralds' Office he was extremely civil, came to tender me the perusal of the noble Record of Domesday-book, which is in his keeping in the Exchequer, the fees for which would otherwise surmount my attempts, being a noble for producing the book, and ten groats for every line transcribed;‡ he also urged me to accept of the like deputation as Mr. Hopkinson, which should cost me nothing, and might procure me the right of arms, inscriptions, &c. in all places north of Trent, without control."

Thoresby also enjoyed the friendly services of Robert Dale, Suffolk Herald and Deputy Register of the College of Arms,§ from whom he had received attentions during his London

\* Vol. I, page 219.

† Their correspondence about the Thoresby pedigree was afterwards.

‡ Vol. I, page 436.

§ Son of Thomas Dale of Cross-hill Hall, Great Smeeton near Northallerton in Yorkshire, and brother-in-law to a member of the family of the Blands of Beeston, near Leeds. A minute pedigree of this family in the *Ducatus* was Mr. Dale's drawing.

visit in 1701, and who now admitted him to the Library of the College, where he copied pedigrees of Yorkshire gentry from Sir William Dugdale's Visitations of 1665 and 1666. Mr. Dale also walked with him to the Tower,—“mightily pleased with the new and excellent method the Records are put into;” and beside revelling among them he inspected the several armouries,—

“As that more ancient, of the weapons taken in the memorable year 1588 from the pretended Invincible Armada, and those modern from Vigo, and in other memorable transactions of this age . . . in return stepped in to see the lions, eagles, catamounts, leopards, &c.”

Again, as in 1701, Thoresby visited Sir Hans Sloane, with whom he had maintained a correspondence beyond the communications to the Philosophical transactions. A number of the letters written by Thoresby are among the Sloane M.S.S.\* The solicitations in them for spare curiosities are amusingly frequent, and prove Thoresby's assiduity in collecting for his Museum. He asks in one letter for duplicates of fruits or berries from Indian plants, in papers having references to number and page of their record in Sloane's own catalogue,—“I would willingly have as many as you can conveniently spare me before I draw a new catalogue of my curiosities, that I may place them as your present.” Soon afterward he wrote again by Mr. Kirke, by whom he said the Indian plants might be sent safely; and feared that Sloane had not discovered the other “lachrymatory or Roman glass bottles, for if,” he continued, “you had a duplicate I should venture to turn mendicant.” Moreover,—“I have enclosed a list of such eminent persons as you have a correspondence with, that I have never got the happiness of any autographs of, as Sir Robert Theobald's.” On the 22nd of April 1702, a fortnight after the death of his brother Jeremiah, he wrote,—

\* Additional M.S.S. 4063.

"Honored Sir,

"I had not given you this diversion of a letter (being in a hurry and confusion upon the death of a relation) but purely to acquaint you that my honoured and dear friend and neighbour Dr. Richardson, who began his journey last week, designs you a visit." Dr. Richardson is then described as an ingenious and very curious person, who would be interested in the Indian curiosities which Sloane had collected in his travels, particularly plants,—“for he is a most eminent botanist, and has a correspondence with the learned of that character in foreign parts. I wrote to you by Mr. Kirke, whose business detains him so long in London, that I hope by him to receive what you was kindly pleased to promise as an additional benefaction to

"Sir,

"Your affectionate humble servant,

"RALPH THORESBY."

"My service pray to your excellent neighbour Dean Hicke<sup>\*</sup> (I hope to see him a Bishop), to Mr. Wanley, pray in what readiness is the noble edition of his Saxon Grammar, &c."

On Dr. Richardson's return home to North Bierley in the following month he sent a letter of thanks to Thoresby for his introduction to Sloane and to Dr. Woodward,—

"The latter of which received me very civilly, and showed me the noblest collection of fossils of all sorts that I ever saw, and with very little reflection upon any person, though I am informed his temper is quite otherwise. I hear nothing of his great work, though I perceive by him he goes on with it at leisure times. It is pity so ingenious a person should not have more friends. Dr. Sloane is the very epitome of courtesy; and though he had several persons of worth to wait upon, yet deferred his visits till he had shown me his Jamaica collection, which is very fine and well prepared. Mr. Charleton's collection, which Dr. Sloane now has, lies all in confusion as yet, and will require some time to put them into order. His History of Jamaica will shortly be out, all the plates being now engraven,

\* Dr. Hicke<sup>s</sup> lived in Southampton Street, near Bloomsbury Square.

and some few specimens printed off.\* . . . I have now some company with me, and must defer giving you a further account till I have the happiness to see you at Leeds, which I must not think of till I have more leisure."

This letter, which Mr. Hunter has printed, is in the Sloane collection, and it is likely that Thoresby sent it to Sloane, in order that he might see how his courtesy had been appreciated. Sloane wrote to Thoresby a fortnight after the date of Dr. Richardson's letter,—

"I thank you heartily for the opportunity you gave me of being acquainted with Dr. Richardson. I had heard, ere I received your letter, of his arrival, and made interest with his friends to be known to him. I found him answer the great character he has, extremely knowing, candid and obliging. I am sorry my showing some of his designs and observations to the Society should have drawn the wrath of a correspondent of yours upon him. I must do what I can to serve the Society, and do right to all men, who, I think, deserve well, without regard to the humours of those who would discourage everything that comes not to the support of their hypotheses."

This evidently refers to Dr. Woodward, who had written to Thoresby in terms which support the allegations about his temper,—

"Dr. Richardson made me one visit, and stayed just while he looked over part of my collection, and no longer. He had with him drawings of the plants he found in North Bierley coal pits: it was with much difficulty I obtained them for about three hours, he telling me he must need have them, he being to go out of town that afternoon: but next Wednesday, Dr. Sloane produced them at the meeting of the Society, he having given him these drawings, and promised to send him the things themselves."†

\* Vol. I, page 386 and *note*. Some years later, in 1714, Thoresby mentions writing the epitaph of Mr. Charlton, otherwise Courten. The History by Sloane was entitled,—"*Voyage to the islands Madera, Bardados, Nieves, St. Christopher's and Jamaica, with the Natural History of the last of these Islands.*"—2 vols. folio.

† There is more on the subject in Dr. Richardson's published correspondence, and perhaps in this episode we have the germ of the anger against Sir Hans



He also complains of another matter,—

“I just mentioned to him those passages relating to me in his letter published by Mr. Lhwyd. He offered me no satisfaction for the injury he had done me and the world there, so that I must do myself right.”

And Thoresby, it seems, had opened negotiations for a Roman lamp,—

“I am sorry I have not a Roman lamp to spare, if I had I would send it you immediately, and not stand bartering with you for a coin of Quintillus, or any thing else, though, in truth, I should be glad of seeing some of the northern antiquities that are fair.”\*

Sloane's letter continues,—

“I have not yet got you a Collection of Original Letters, but I will not fail to do it; but such as are directed to the Society, or me as their Secretary, must remain amongst their papers. However, I will furnish you with many of eminent persons, both abroad and at home, besides those in your list. I would have proceeded some length in it already, but that I would choose letters upon some good subject.”

On the 29th of May 1703 Thoresby again sought the good offices of Sloane, asking him to obtain some parts of the Philosophical Transactions wanting from Thoresby's own set,—

Sloane on the part of Woodward, which eight years afterward broke out in expressions deemed insulting, and on Dr. Woodward's refusal to withdraw them caused his expulsion from the Royal Society. There is an account of him in Weld's History of the Society, based on that in Ward's Lives of the Gresham Professors. He was of humble origin, and apprenticed to a linen-draper; but renounced that calling for scientific pursuits, found friends in Peter Barwick, M.D. and Sir Ralph Dutton, in 1692 was made Professor of Physick at Gresham College, whence his letters to Thoresby are dated, and F.R.S. in 1693. In 1695, when but thirty years old, he published an “Essay towards a Natural History of the Earth,” which drew much attention. Bequeathing his geological collection to Cambridge University, he founded the Woodwardian Museum, besides a Professorship in geology. There is a story of a dispute on some medical subject between him and Dr. Mead, which ended in a duel under Gresham College gateway. Woodward's foot slipped. “Take your life!” said Mead. “Anything but *your* physic,” retorted Dr. Woodward. He died in 1728.

\* But Woodward was a contributor to Thoresby's Museum, see Vol. I, page 411.

"I am loath to give you the trouble to buy them for me, and yet I fear they may shy of letting any other person have them at the same price, for I then bought them one with another\* . . . at tenpence apiece, as they told me you paid . . . . I wish you could spare a few minutes time to put up some of the duplicates of your Indian Plants that you so kindly promised to adorn my collection with." Anything which Sloane had for him might be left,—“with my cousin Dickenson, at the Surgeon’s Arms in Paternoster Row, where I will desire my nephew Wilson of Gray’s Inn to call for them.”

Sir Hans Sloane promised more than he was asked to do; and, limited as Thoresby’s means were, the generosity indicated in the following extract from another letter was not misapplied,—

“The present you design me of your Transactions is an act as well of your generosity as kindness, which I must ever acknowledge to be very great to me. I shall register them among my Benefactors as your present, and not as due in respect of any letters inserted as Mr. A. de la P. told me his were.”

But it seems there was some delay in the fulfilment of Sloane’s beneficent promises, and a subsequent letter of Thoresby’s betokens a sense of slight, if not injury,—

“One of your correspondents who came to Leeds purposely to see my collections slipt out that you had always made him a present of those particular Transactions where any of his letters were inserted, whereas of about twenty of mine I never yet had the favour of one yet which (if it be really done to others) I cannot impute to anything but the insignificancy of the person or his letters, and then methinks you should not have inserted them. That indeed with the Roman Monuments you kindly promised to send, with some *original Letters, Indian Plants, &c., all which shall be sent you when I have leisure to look them out*, which are your very words in the last letter which I had the favour to receive

\* When he was last in London, of Walford.

from you, which is now above half a year ago. I question not the least the sincerity of your design to oblige me, for I have had experience of your kindness and singular good temper which was very agreeable to me, but think it a little hard that in almost nine months you cannot spare half an hour for a poor country correspondent."

And again he asks Sloane to buy the wanted parts of the Philosophical Transaction if he can get them at tenpence each as Thoresby was told when, at that price, he bought as many as came to five or six pounds. This appeal succeeded; for on the 16th of August 1704 Thoresby wrote again thus,—

"You have obliged me exceedingly by your kind present of the late Transactions which have completed my set from the very beginning except what I despair of, the five single Transactions (No. 180, 181, 182, 183 and 187) which I could not procure when in London and bought the former volumes." He had "nothing answerable" to return, but sent a calculation for finding Easter, by "The learned and ingenious Richard Thornton Esq.;" which, he said, "I am sure infinitely better deserves a place in the Transactions than anything ever received from me."

Thoresby was twice at Sir Hans Sloane's during his stay in London in 1709. On the 14th of January,—

"Walked to Bloomsbury Square before eight, that I met with my kind friend Dr. Sloane, now Sir Hans, who showed me some of his admirable collections, and presented me with the Transactions that I wanted."

8 Feb. "Walked to Bloomsbury Square between seven and eight, to Dr. Sloane's, who showed me seven or eight most noble (but costly) volumes in large folio, full of admirable fine paintings and drawings of Indian animals, plants, insects, habits, prospects, &c., and other volumes of heads, and other prints of European Princes, learned men, &c."

On the 26th of April 1707, Thoresby had begun a correspondence with the Rev. John Strype of Low Leyton in Essex, and Lecturer at Hackney church, still famous for his

writings relating to the Reformation. Thoresby's letter is among the Cole M.S.S. in the British Museum,\* and is as follows:—

“Rev Sir,

“If I had known sooner how to direct to you, I had long ago presumed to have written to you in gratitude for the publick service you have done to religion and learning in your excellent memorials of Archbishop Cranmer.† I particularly thank you for the just vindication of Bishop Farrer, whose relations are, to this day, lords of Wortley in this parish.‡

“This primitive Archbishop was also Lord of Kirkstall Abbey in the said precinct, where, tradition saith, he sometimes resided; which probably was on his retirement in 1552. His son Thos. Cranmer, Esq., sold it and Arthington, A<sup>o</sup> 1583, to Sir Thos. Cecil, afterward Earl of Exeter, for £2,800. May I beg of you, good Sir, if you have in your curious researches found anything concerning this Abbey, or the Archbishop's journey into these northern parts, to support this tradition, to oblige me with the notice of it, for we are much at a loss for want of records in these parts. I have spent many years in perusing what ancient Manuscripts and Registers I have been able to procure, and would most willingly travel twenty miles on foot to have the happiness of your converse, and a sight of your Collections.

“I have been a long time procuring both ancient and modern autographs of noted persons in Church and State. My honoured friends have supplied me with many of the modern worthies, my Lord Abp. of York, the Bp. of Sarum, Dr. Woodward, Mr. Evelyn, my Lord Fairfax and the Dr. his uncle: but I find

\* Additional M.S.S. 5853. It has been printed by the Camden Society among “Letters of eminent Literary men.”

† Published 1694.

‡ Prefixed to the Farrer pedigree under the head Wortley in the *Ducatus* is,—“James Farrer, Esq., is Lord of this Mannor, which Family, as others before mentioned, has been too remiss in a timely preserving the Memoirs of their Predecessors; and for that reason it is that this pedigree is not honoured with the name of that pious *Martyr* Bishop *Farrer*, who was born within the Vicarige of *Hallifax*, within four miles of which he gave Lands to his near Relations.”

it hard to procure any of antiquity. I had the promise of one of Archbishop Cranmer, but was never so happy as to receive it. Is there never a scrap of honest John Fox's the Martyrologist, to enrich my Collection? I have a real respect for his memory, and have been troubled to hear some (whose temper I envy not) depreciate his useful and learned works. I have some accounts of Archbishop Grindall, which I procured from his native country, which are at your service.

"Sir,

"Your most humble Servant,

"RALPH THORESBY."

Strype replied from Low Leyton on the 16th of May:—\*

"Sir,

"There is a great honour due to such persons who took the pains and ventured their lives (and lost them too) to purge corrupt religion among us, and to transmit an excellent reformation of it down to us their posterity, who enjoy the benefit of it to this day; and this made me, long ago, very desirous to know as much as I could of these men. And partly this, and partly to see on what foot our reformation stood, made me diligent to look into manuscripts of those times, to give me the better and the surer information; for printed histories are defective and imperfect, and too often false and erroneous.

"And that you, Sir, and several such inquisitive persons as you, have taken in good part what I have published of this nature, is a great satisfaction to me; for of your particular favour to me and my studies I take notice from your obliging letter, lately sent me by Dr. Woodward.

"Kirkstall Abbey, Arthington, &c., came to Archbishop Cranmer by exchange with King Henry VIII, which exchange was confirmed by Parliament.† The act I have seen among

\* This and the succeeding letters from Mr. Strype to Thoresby are among those published by Mr. Hunter; but they are re-printed here in order to connect them with the relative letters from Thoresby to Strype, which, except the foregoing one, have not been published before.

† Cranmer's title was further confirmed by Edward the Sixth. In the Plumpton Correspondence, published by the Camden Society, there is a letter to William

the records of Parliament and transcribed. I think the Archbishop hardly ever resided at that Abbey; for in those latter times of King Edward, when he was not at Court, he usually was down at some of his houses in his diocese, and could not long be wanted from the King or the council, to be consulted with. What you write of his son's parting with that estate, to whom, and when, is new to me; and so also it is that the posterity of Bishop Farrar is still extant, and the place where; which notices I thank you for.

"Since Archbishop Cranmer's memorials have been so acceptable to you, perhaps it may not displease you to read the lives of some other learned and good men, and near contemporaries with him, which I have published; viz., Sir Thomas Smith, Sir John Cheek, and Aylmer, sometime Bishop of London.

"Sir, I do design to go on with the Archbishops of Canterbury, in Queen Elizabeth's reign, if God give me life, and learned men encouragement. I am called upon to publish the Life of Archbishop Parker; the materials whereof I have in good readiness. I have the Life and Acts of Grindal, ready finished, lying by me. And now I mention him, I would most

Plumpton (who died in the first year of Edward the Sixth), from his relative Sir Henry Savile of Thornhill, stating that Sir Henry had written to his cousin Henry Savile of Lupset "to go thorough with my Lord of Canterbury for" a lease of Kirkstall and Arthington, and offering Plumpton a share of it. An editorial note to this letter says that Robert Savile of Howley, illegitimate son of Sir Henry, must have afterward acquired the reversion in fee, as the estate had descended with his other property to the Brudenells, Earls of Cardigan. Queen Mary took possession of Kirkstall as a forfeiture to the Crown, on Cranmer's attainder; and in Todd's Life of Cranmer there is a piteous memorial from Cranmer's son to Queen Elizabeth, praying for its restoration. The original is among the Lansdowne M.S.S. The appeal must have been responded to, for during Elizabeth's reign a demand was made by the farmer of the King's Mills in Leeds for suit, soke and maulture from Thomas Cranmer of Kirkstall Abbey (*Ducatus Lancastriæ*, Calendar to the Pleadings, published by the Record Commission); and Sir Thomas Cicell, Knight, is plaintiff, William Artington and Edward Walker defendants, in an application to Chancery for setting aside a "pretended lease" of "Woodlands in the parishes of Kirkstall, Addell and Leeds, purchased by plaintiff of Thomas Cranmer." (*Calendars of Proceedings in Chancery in the Reign of Queen Elizabeth*, Record Commission). This confirms Thoresby's statement of the sale by Cranmer's son to Cecil, which Strype said was new to him.

gladly have some intelligence what account you have of him ; that if it prove somewhat that I have not already, I may hereafter obtain the favour of some transcript of it from you, as you kindly offer.

"I have now ready an Ecclesiastical History of England, commencing at Queen Elizabeth's access to the crown ; and so reaching unto the thirteenth year of her reign. It will make about one hundred and fifty sheets in folio ; so that the book-seller is loth to venture upon it without a subscription. I pray, if you shall think it convenient to trouble yourself to write to me again, afford me your judgement whether such a work may be so acceptable among the learned in your parts, that they would be willing to encourage the edition by subscribing.

"Sir, this paper will not allow me to reply to some other particulars of your ingenious letter ; but I hope I may do it some other time. In the mean time, I conclude, and am, Sir,

"Your very humble Servant,

"JOHN STRYPE."

Thoresby replied within a week :—\*

"Leedes, 21 May 1707.

"Rev. Sir,

"I gladly received yours of the 15th. What I have of Archbishop Grindall's relates chiefly to the school of his foundation in Cumberland, it being my custom, wherever I travel, as soon as I have visited the Church, to enquire what Protestant benefactions there are. Tho' by the way, that excellent and moderate Archbishop was not born at St. Bee's, as Fuller saith, but at Hensingham, a mile south of Whitehaven, in the Parish, but 3 miles distant from St. Bees."

Then follows a long account of the School, taken from a letter written to Thoresby in December 1694 by William Gilpin, Esq., of Whitehaven ; who, earlier in that year, had paid Thoresby much attention when in Cumberland, inquiring into the circumstances of his sister-in-law's suitor, young Mr.

\* Additional M.S.S. 5853 ; the subsequent letters from Thoresby to Strype are from the same volume of the Cole manuscripts.

Salkeild. Mr. Gilpin, son of a doctor in Newcastle, appears at that time to have had charge of "Sir John Lowther's stately house at the Flat," Whitehaven; and Thoresby calls him "an ingenious gentleman," and "an accurate historian and virtuoso." His letter giving account of Grindal and St. Bees is in Mr. Hunter's publication. Having ended his communication from it, Thoresby thus concludes his letter to Strype:—

"Thus far my worthy friend gave me an account of, A.<sup>o</sup> 1694.

"The Archbishop's epitaph I transcribed at Croydon from his monument.\* I had the promise of an autograph of his from a worthy friend at Lambeth, which I fear his marriage has put out of his mind. My service to Dr. Woodward.

"Your most humble servant,

"RALPH THORESBY."

Strype replied again on the 1st of July:—

"Sir,

"You will pardon me that I have thus long deferred answering your very obliging letter, received the last month, and not before now return you my due thanks for the instructive contents of it. I have indeed been somewhat busy of late in preparing and offering to the press an Ecclesiastical History of our nation, when religion first became reformed under Queen Elizabeth, and so onward for several years in her reign. Some account whereof you will see in the proposals I herewithal send you, enclosed among other papers: you will soon see what they are. There is a whole letter of Sir Thomas Smith's, all of his own writing; the other scraps are only originals of the names of those persons you have deservedly an esteem of. I have mutilated their letters by cutting off their subscriptions for you, but the letters I retain; because I am loth to break my collection. I wish they may give you any pleasure. You have Grindall thrice writing himself, according to his threefold advancement.† You see also the genuine hand of good John

\* A Latin epitaph, and a long one. It is given in Anderson's Croydon Church. The monument was shattered at the fire of 5th January 1867.

† Grindal was successively Bishop of London, Archbishop of York, and of Canterbury.



Fox, for whose memory you justly have an esteem; and so he had in former times, by bishops and the best and learnedest men, being a painful historian, a learned man, and a peaceable divine. I have also sent you the inscription upon Archbishop Grindall's monument, beginning a few words before *Cantab.* and so on, that you may supply your defects. Among these papers you have a preface, which I made to stand before Hayward's Life of King Edward the Sixth, as it is reprinted in the late History of the Kings, and should have been printed in that edition, but was dropped, I know not how, though it was promised and referred to in the general preface before that history. I therefore printed a few of them to bestow among my friends. The last paper is a proposal for printing of a book that seems to contain a variety of church antiquity, especially for the diocese of London, which I send you with the rest; because, I believe, such matters are not unacceptable to you.

"I thank you for your large notices concerning Bishop Grindall's birth-place, the history of that northern Saint, St. Begh, the school in that town, and the particular state of it, which, with your leave, I intend to make use of in my history of the founder's life;\* but I would gladly know upon what ground you make Hensingham† the place of Grindal's birth; since not only Fuller, but every one almost that I meet with, took it for granted that he was born in St. Bee's town. I have a letter of Bishop Grindal's own writing, wherein he speaks of his brother Robert Grindal, of St. Begh's, and of his own purchasing of two leases, one of some tithes of St. Begh's, the other of the house where he was born, being built at the charges of his father and brother, which made me ready to conclude that that house stood in that town. I have given your commendations to our common friend, the ingenious Dr. Woodward, to whom I am

\* As he did, naming Thoresby—"a very inquisitive learned gentleman," "a learned gentleman and diligent searcher into antiquities"—as the contributor. Thoresby's services are also acknowledged in Strype's "Annals of the Reformation," and in his "Memorials."

† On this Thoresby observes in a note, that the authority of his friend Gilpin was supported by the Croydon epitaph, which, though the school stands in the town of St. Bees, stated that Grindal had founded it in the *parish*, "where he was born."

much beholden for communicating to me an account of divers Roman antiquities, found in and about London, which shall have a place in the new edition of Stow's Survey of London, which I am preparing. And thus, Sir, leaving you under God's protection and blessing, I bid you farewell, remaining always in all offices of friendship and Christianity, Sir,

"Yours to be commanded,

"JOHN STRYPE."

Thoresby to Strype:—

"Leedes, 23 Aug. 1707."

"Rev. Sir,

"You have obliged me exceedingly by your kind letter and autographs. I was unwilling to return an empty compliment, without endeavours to be a little serviceable; and though I am able to procure but three subscriptions for Mr. Hearne's *Livy*,\* yet I have got nine for your Church History, and will venture to take two sets, though I run the risk of the other three not subscribed for.

"As to what I wrote about Archbishop Grindal you are welcome to make what you please of it. That that pious prelate was born at Hensingham, I have the authority of a learned and ingenious gentleman, William Gilpin, Esq., who lives within a mile of the place, and I believe has seen the writings, &c. Besides, the words of the Epitaph imply he was not born at St. Begh's: for tho' the School be confessedly there, yet 'tis expressed, 'in Paræchiâ Divæ Beghæ, ubi natus est, Scholam,' &c.

"If the autographs of any other learned persons of these or later times fall in your way, I question not but you will continue your kindness to my collection. Dr. Hudson, the head keeper to the Bodleian Library, who came hither purposely to see my collections and curiosities, has promised to send me some eminent hands. I keep a strict list of the particulars, under the name of each benefactor, that I may have a just

\* Hearne had just written from Oxford to Thoresby,—“I am obliged to you for your care of my concerns [in respect of] *Livy*, in procuring subscriptions. This, as well as other kind offices, will command what favour you shall please to desire from, good Sir,

"Your most faithful, humble servant,

"THOMAS HEARNE.

"I thank you for your grateful mention of me in the *Philosophical Transactions*,"

acknowledgement hereafter. I thank you for the preface to Hayward's Edward VI. which is very useful and necessary, and ought by no means to have been dropt, setting that transaction in its true light, though not so agreeable.

"I like well Mr. Newcome's proposals, and could not in my former circumstances have resisted such a temptation; but must now acquiesce, having (since some severe losses have happened, and also the additional charge of the orphans of a near relation) bought few books the last seven years, and subscribed to fewer. Only I break through all difficulties for yours, because it not only retrieves many valuable remains, and is mighty agreeable to my studies, but the temper and design is peaceable and truly Christian. May the number of such be daily increased! Pardon, Sir, my freedom herein.

"I shall be glad to see your proposals for the new Survey of London, and to know particularly whether that monument for Henry Thoresby, Esq. (who was brother to my Great-Grandfather's Father) be yet in being at Hackney. My Father (whose memoirs I think to publish, for he was very eminent in his generation) was the 23rd in a lineal descent in our pedigree; of which John (the younger son of Hugh, son of Sir Hugh Thoresby) was Archbishop of York, Cardinal, Chancellor of England, &c., and what is better, a Reformer some ages before the Reformation could prevail as an establishment.

"My service to the excellent Dr. Woodward, the Roman antiquary. If you oblige me with any more autographs, please to favour me with one of Mr. Newcome's, with whom I perceive you are acquainted. I hoard up modern as well as ancient.

"I am, &c.,

"R. T."

Strype to Thoresby:—

"Low Leyton, Nov. 4, 1707."

"Sir,

"You will pardon me in that I have made so long an interval between the receipt of your very kind letter and this my answer. It was not, I assure you, any disrespect to you, for whom I must have an high esteem, not only because of your undeserved esteem of me, but chiefly because of that

learning, and (which is much more) that piety and goodness that I plainly perceive in you. I pray you therefore to take my excuse in general to be, that I have of late been very busy in one thing or other, which it is needless to tell you the particulars of.

“In the first place, I thank you for your help in setting forward the printing of my *Annals of the History of the Reformation*, by promising subscription for two sets. I shall desire you to send up the names of the subscribers, with their titles, qualities and abodes, if you please; because we shall, in acknowledgement of their encouragement of the work, print a catalogue of them; and you may defer a while sending up the money, till you shall hear further from me. The bookseller, Mr. Wyat, at the Rose, in St. Paul’s Churchyard, hath not yet completed his number of subscribers he intends to have, before he ventures to put the manuscript to the press. We have both the Archbishops, and several other Bishops, among our subscribers, and my Lord Somers, and some other persons of quality, both the clergy and laity; but we want such good friends as you to subscribe for sets, which would make quicker work; but this Parliament and Term time, now the town is full, we shall not be long I suppose about the business. Sir, since you are such a well-willer to my way of studies, I will acquaint you with another thing I have in hand, which the Archbishop of Canterbury hath called upon me, as well as many others, to do; and that is, to publish the *Life and Acts of Archbishop Parker*, which I have, for divers years, been collecting materials for, and have now almost finished that work too; but it will be so large, that I am afraid I shall find great difficulties in the printing. I am entered into the sixty fourth year of my age, and it is time for me now to lay aside other matters, and to get ready when my God shall call me, which cannot be long; but yet I would gladly out of my many years collections of historical matters compile somewhat that might be of good use to our English world to know, relating to the true state of Religion and our Church, that English Protestants, knowing better what the original constitution of it was, might be more rectified in their sentiments

about it, and more pacified to one another: and since you are so inquisitive about Stow's Survey, I send you these two papers enclosed. The Address to the Clergy will show, among other things, what diligence I have used to procure materials for that great work; and I must tell you, the answer of the clergy of London to this invitation was very little or nothing. The other paper, entitled the Advertisement, was intended to have been published, and put into some of the newspapers; but as yet it hath not: therein you may see partly what is, and shall be done, in this new edition. It hath cost me some years' pains, and is ready for the press, whensoever the booksellers who have the propriety of the copy will meet and agree among themselves to set it forward.

"Your ancestor's monument at Hackney I see weekly: the figures are still very fair, and unviolated. I have exactly transcribed the inscription to be put into the Survey, where, indeed, it was before, among the Remains (which I have better digested); and if there be any mistakes there, I have amended them. I am greatly pleased, Sir, with your design of giving the public an account of your worthy father. The reading the lives of eminent men is both pleasant and useful. What I have published hath generally been Lives; under which, many remarkable matters, both in Church and State, as well as others of more private concern, have fallen in. Your pedigree is very singular, and venerable for the antiquity, and for that excellent Archbishop that it produced, being a Reformer before the Reformation, as you observe; and many such haters of papal corruptions there were, as well here as in other countries, however Papists slander our religion for the novelty of it. Sir, I have sent you a few more autographs, since they are so acceptable to you. Mr. Newcourt [Qy. Newcome?], though I formerly knew him, when he was Deputy Registrar to the Bishop of London, I have now no correspondence with. You have now all the Protestant Archbishops of Canterbury to the end of Queen Elizabeth, and among them the blessed martyr, of most precious memory, Archbishop Cranmer. I have ventured to deface a few letters to gratify your ingenious curiosity; and to stuff up this packet, I have sent you, enclosed with the rest, a private sermon of mine, that I was induced, as you

see, to publish. No more, but committing you to God, and concluding, with the assurance, that I am, Sir, your very humble servant,

“JOHN STRYPE.”

Thoresby's answer to this letter miscarried, but he wrote again:—

“Leeds, 25 Feb: 1707-8.”

“Rev. Sir,

“I lately received a valuable present of autographs from Oxford: Among the rest, one of Abp. Abbot to Bp. King of London, A<sup>o</sup> 1612, concerning 7 priests and Jesuits which the King had granted to the Spanish Ambassador. Perhaps you may think it proper to insert in the Memoirs of that Prelate, it showing abundance of pious zeal against Popery, without any reflection elsewhere. I shall willingly send you the copy of it.

“Your humble Serv<sup>t</sup>!

“RALPH THORESBY.”

*Cole* adds a note of his own—“This authenticates Lord Clarendon's character of the Puritan Abp., and in some degree vindicates that of Bp. King from being a Papist, which the Puritans charged him with.”

Strype replied on the 19th of March:—\*

“Sir,

“I received yours of Feb. 25, the last week; for which I give you many thanks. By it, I perceive you were so kind as some time ago to send me another, which I have not received. For I have not hitherto had the names of your friends, the subscribers to my *Annals*. But I hope mine, written to you in November last, met not with the same fate; wherein I enclosed divers papers for your entertainment, and among the rest, several autographs of our first Protestant Archbishops.

“It will not be long now ere we put this work into the press; and though the world seeth it not so soon as was at first

\* Being dated according to the Old Style, 1707, Mr. Hunter has misplaced this letter, and inserted it before the preceding.

intended, it will have the advantage of another review, and some further improvements that I have made since: when it is actually going forward you shall hear, and then if you please to return the money, I shall observe your orders where to receive it: or, if you are willing to put it into my hands without further delay, Mr. Sam. Cornock, a cheesemonger, in Leadenhall Street, near Cree Church, London, will receive it safe, and give his receipt for the same. I am very desirous to see that letter of Archbishop Abbot you mention: I know and reverence his great integrity, learned abilities, hearty zeal to the Reformation, and concern for that favour that was in those days shown to Papists, the fatal and implacable enemies. And since you offer so freely to transcribe the letter for me, let me entreat you to do it, and at your leisure to send it . . . .”

In the following September Thoresby wrote to Strype again, thanking him for autographs, and giving him a list of twelve subscribers to his *Annals*; and concluding,—

“Pray oblige your distant friends with your picture in the front of your *Annals*, which would be a great satisfaction to such as have not the happiness of a personal acquaintance, and particularly to, dear Sir,

“Your very humble servant,  
“RALPH THORESBY.”

Strype's answer is dated Low Leyton, Oct. 7 1708:—

“Sir,

“I received your letter, September 28th, and went not to London before a day or two ago, when I received (and acknowledged so to have done) the bill of the goldsmith for 3*l.* 12*s.* for two sets of the *Annals* of the Reformation subscribed for. And for this your encouragement of the work, both the bookseller as well as myself must thank you. The impression is now drawing to a conclusion, and will exceed the number of sheets proposed by at least half a score. Mr. Wyat had received from you the names of the subscribers.

“Sir, I have no inclination to set my picture before the book, as you, out of your good will towards me, suggest, that I may administer no occasion to any misrepresentation to be made thereof. And I consider it would be more than Bishop

Burnet thought meet to do when he set forth his book of the Reformation. I am more concerned to get a good figure of Queen Elizabeth to face the book; such a figure I mean of her as when she first came to the Crown, agreeable to the History, which falls in only with her first years: not as the common pictures of that Queen are, that show her in the midst, or latter end of her government, where she appears all set out in gaudy attire; whereas her habit, as well as her face, was very different when she first was Queen. I have seen in a gallery belonging to a gentleman's house in this County (Mr. Cheek I mean) such a picture of her, with her hair all hanging loose, a very lovely person. A cut from this I am thinking to procure, with Parker, Archbishop of Canterbury, and Cecil, her Secretary, standing by her chair. But whether this will come to any issue it is uncertain . . .

"The monument of Thoresby remains very fair still in Hackney chancel, with four well wrought figures, all kneeling; that is, himself, his wife, and the two daughters. The inscription, in golden letters, part under him, and part under her. The coat of arms, which you enquire after, stands engraven in the stone in three several places, that is, on the top of the monument, where, on a shield, are quartered six coats with the crest; again, just over his head, another shield, with ten several coats quartered; and again, over her a bearing quarterly. The coats, I perceive, you have, or else upon your desire I am ready to send you them, though some of them are somewhat obscure.

"Sir, for the transcript of Archbishop Abbot's letter I give you many thanks; it is very acceptable to me, and shows him a prelate of conduct, and who, as his high office required, had a diligent vigilancy over the church against those dangerous underminers of it, the Jesuits. And it gives also no very agreeable insight into that court, at that time, when the fear or favour of Spain so warped that King, to the evident prejudice of the state and religion. And thus leaving you and yours under the blessing of God, I conclude this letter and trouble, being, Sir,

"Your very humble servant,  
"J. STRYPE."

"As soon as we are ready with the book you shall hear."



After Thoresby's arrival in London in January 1709, he wrote to Strype announcing his arrival, after a tedious journey. He lodged in Blossom's Inn, near St. Lawrence's Lane; had a mind to come to Hackney next Lord's Day to hear Mr. Strype preach; and much wished to see his collection of autographs. And on the 16th, the second Sunday after his arrival, he carried out his intention, accompanied by the bookseller named in Strype's letters:—

"Walked with Mr. Wyat, the bookseller, to Hackney, where Mr. Newcome, their pious and learned vicar, prayed and preached excellently. I afterwards viewed the monuments in the church, and was particularly pleased to find that of Henry Thoresby, Esq., so well preserved, his and his wife's and daughter's statues (the Lady Hardress) all entire with the arms."

There is no such cause for satisfaction now. In a note to Strype's letter describing the monument, Mr. Hunter says it was removed to the new church; which was built near the close of last century when old Hackney church, the tower excepted, was pulled down. It only should be there; and the following passage in the "History and Antiquities of the Parish of Hackney," by Wm. Robinson, LL.D., too probably explains its absence:—

"The ancient monuments, brasses and inscriptions, which were formerly the pride and ornament of the old Church of St. Augustine, have suffered by the taste for modern improvements; and most of them are scattered abroad, and not to be found but in the private collections of individuals, and placed against the walls of passages leading to conservatories and other places of recreation and amusement."

The monument was placed near a mortuary chapel of the Rowe family attached to the south wall of the former church, now represented by a mausoleum which stands in the old churchyard, and contains monuments to members of that family.\*

\* In November 1877, the writer of this book endeavoured to ascertain if Henry Thoresby's monument was also there, or any remains of it. But scarcely had he

To revert to Thoresby's diary. The entry continues:—

"I dined with the worthy Mr. Newcome, who received me kindly; showed me his father's picture. [He was son to Thoresby's former acquaintance, Mr. Newcome of Manchester.] Afternoon, Mr. Strype, the pious lecturer, preached excellently. I afterwards enjoyed a little of this worthy person's company, and returned with Mr. Wyat in tolerable time to London."

Thus, Thoresby made acquaintance with the annalist of the Reformation. On the following Thursday,—

"Mr. Wyat came, with whom I rode by Mile End, Stratford and Bow to Low Leyton, rightly so called from its situation, the meadows being covered with water, like an arm of the sea, but we found the road good, and were kindly received by the worthy Mr. Strype, a pious Divine, and indefatigably industrious historian, as appears by the many volumes of his own handwriting, and some of them prodigiously large folios, which I was really surprised with the sight of, and with his noble collection of original letters of King Henry the Eighth, and several of his Queens, Edward the Sixth, Queen Jane, Queen Mary and Queen Elizabeth, with Cardinal Wolsey, Pole and others of the most eminent clergy before and after the Reformation, with the most eminent statesmen, divines and historians; which, I perceived, had been the collections of the famous Lord Treasurer Burleigh, to whom most of the later letters were directed, and particularly those of the Lord Chancellor Hatton, Earl of Essex, Sir Philip Sydney, Sir Walter Mildmay and Secretary Wilson, that he presented me with. Returned very well, and in good time."

"February 8.— . . Upon my return into the City I met with worthy Mr. Strype, who was come from Layton to see me, and presented me with some most valuable autographs of King

crossed the flooring, when the part immediately within the entrance gave way, letting a friend, and a woman who had charge of the keys, into a vault beneath. The gentleman escaped with some slight hurts, but the poor woman was brought up unconscious, and she died about two hours afterward from some internal injury. Strange to say, she was the sixth of her family on whom a coroner's inquest was held. This extraordinary and sad accident put a stop to further investigation. Others, no long time before, had spent some time within the building, examining the monuments

Edward VI. and Queen Elizabeth, Roger Ascham, Dean Nowell, Dr. Whitaker and Sir Walter Raleigh; took leave of this excellent person."

Thoresby "visited the famous N. Grew at the College of Physicians;"\* and he had repeated interviews, in Harley's famous library, with Harley's Librarian, Humphrey Wanley; of whom, so far back as the year 1697, Edmund Gibson had written to him in these terms:—

"A young gentleman in Oxford,† Mr. (Humphrey) Wanley, is laying the foundation for a Res Diplomatica, for England particularly. He designs and draws admirably well; having, besides, an unaccountable skill in imitating any hand whatsoever. His great curiosity in books, printed and manuscript, has recommended him to the University to be one of their under Library-Keepers; and the command he has of everything there gives him the best opportunity he could wish of carrying on this honourable design."

When Thoresby had been in London three weeks he received from Mr. Wanley the following letter:—

"Duke Street, York Buildings, Jan. 26, 1708-9."

"Sir,

"I think myself very unhappy, in that I was not at home when you did me the favour to call here. Had you left your direction, I should have attended you before now. And in order to pay my respects to you, I went by the Fountain Tavern, by Temple Gate, the last night, where you did not come, as Mr. Le Neve told me you would [Le Neve had called on Thoresby the day before], but Mr. Plaxton, your friend, gave me what I presently shall put on the backside of this paper; and I had visited you this morning, had I not sprained my left leg in coming home last night. Good Sir, let me see you here, that I may show you some curiosities in the Cottonian Library, in Mr. Harley's and Mr. Kempe's collections. Perhaps you will

\* Nehemiah Grew, M.D., author of a number of botanical and other treatises. He was born at Coventry, and died in 1711.

† Humphrey, son of the Rev. Nathaniel Wanley, Vicar of Trinity Church, Coventry, was born in 1671-2.

not think your labour lost: I have a promise of an autograph of her Majesty's Royal hand-writing for you; your coming hither will facilitate your gaining possession of it. Whenever you shall be pleased to call here, my wife and servants have orders to send for me wherever I be; I being extremely desirous of kissing your hands, with that respect becoming, Sir,

"Your most obedient humble servant,  
"HUMPHREY WANLEY."

Thoresby responded the same day:—

"Jan. 26. Having received an obliging invitation from Mr. Wanley, the librarian, walked to Mr. Harley's (the late Secretary of State),\* was wonderfully surprised to find so prodigious a number of original charters (some of them before the Norman Advent) bulls, ancient writings, charts, and M.S.S. of great variety and value, before and after the Reformation; but he is a gentleman of great abilities and curiosity, and spares no charges in purchasing M.S. historians, ledger books, and chartularies of abbeys, &c.; there were some of the famous Archbishop Usher's, Sir Henry Spelman's, &c. . . ."

"Jan. 28.—In the afternoon I walked to the west end of the town to wait of the Lord High Admiral, Sir Andrew Fountain and Mr. Harley, according to their own appointments, yet disappointed in all, both Houses of Parliament sitting unexpectedly long upon earnest business; only Mr. Wanley showed me several very rare editions of the Bible in English, of the New Testament single, and the Psalms in the early days of the Reformation, of which ancient Bibles he is supposed to have the most curious collection of any person, and will oblige the world with a more accurate account of the several editions than was ever yet known."

"3 Feb.—Went with Mr. Wanley to the late Secretary Harley's, a gentleman of great curiosity, who received me very courteously; he has made a most noble collection of M.S.S., which have cost him a prodigious sum of money; and he allows his library keeper 100*l.* per annum."

\* Robert Harley, M.P. for New Radnor, was Speaker of the House of Commons during the First Parliament of Queen Anne, and then filled the office of Secretary of State until 1707. He was created Earl of Oxford in 1711.

"10 Feb.—Having stayed awhile to see the Judges in Westminster Hall, I took leave of Mr. Calamy in my return, and Mr. Wanley, who went with me to the famous Harleian Library, where I spent rest of day in transcribing notes from Bishop Stillingfleet's M.S.S. concerning Yorkshire,\* till almost faint and starved, not being willing to give over to get victuals, being straitened for time, and the weather extremely severe, more than ever in my apprehension. Afterwards with Mr. Wanley at "Tavern."

"12.—Walked with Mr. Wanley to Somerset House, to see some venerable Roman busts and noble original paintings, one of which is valued at 1500*l.* or 2000*l.* Rest of the day at Mr. Harley's curious library, transcribing as much as the extremity of the season (which pinched me very much) would permit me, refusing to give over for victuals as long as I was able to subsist, this being the last day I could hope to have the perusal of the excellent Bishop Stillingfleet's curious manuscripts relating to Yorkshire, of which there are ten volumes, that cost each forty shillings, though thin ones truly valuable."

Thoresby's stay in town was drawing near its close, and he now took leave of Mr. Wanley, and of the treasures in his charge.

Yet amid his many engagements with people of rank and literary celebrities, Thoresby did not forget the friends of his earlier years. The day after his arrival he paid a visit to "good old Mr. Stretton;" and "was troubled to find him so infirm and lame." A few days afterward he visited "cousin Dickenson and her ingenious husband;" Judith, daughter of the Mr. Dickenson with whom Thoresby resided when first sent to London by his father. She had married a distant relative, William Dickenson, Surgeon to St. Thomas's Hospital, who now presented Thoresby "with his Latin poem upon the Union,

\* Mr. Hunter states that they consist entirely of transcripts from Dodsworth, and now form Nos. 793 to 805 of the Harleian M.S.S. at the British Museum.

dedicated to his quondam schoolfellow, Lord Chancellor Cowper.”\* The father of this Judith Dickenson was dead; so also was his sister-in-law, Mrs. Madox; but Thoresby called upon her son, Thomas Madox, then engaged upon his History of the Exchequer, and he paid another visit the same day to Madox’s predecessor in the office of Historiographer Royal, “good old Mr. Rymer.”† Nor did Thoresby fail to comply with the injunction of the Parson of Barwick-in-Elmet, “be sure you see my mother.” One day he walked with Parson Plaxton’s son to Lincoln’s Inn Square,—

“To visit his grandmother, good old Mrs. Plaxton, who, notwithstanding her great age and the extremity of the weather, was gone to church. Oh that all her descendants would imitate her piety! Was constrained to dine with her and her two daughters; met there also with a grand-daughter of Archbishop Sterne’s, from whom I received an account of the family.”‡

\* Lord Campbell, in his *Lives of the Chancellors*, says that Cowper, who was born in 1664, was, when eight years old, at a private school at St. Albans, and continued there until at least the 5th of August 1675; that it is doubtful he was ever at a public school, and that scarcely anything more is known of his education until he entered the Middle Temple.

† Nichols, in his *Literary Anecdotes*, vol. ix, says that “Mr. Madox’s large and valuable Collection of Transcripts, in 94 volumes in folio and quarto, consist chiefly of Extracts from Records in the Exchequer, the Patent and Clause Rolls in the Tower, the Cotton Library, the Archives of Canterbury and Westminster, the Collections of Benet College, Cambridge, &c., made by him, and intended as materials for a Feudal History of England from the earliest Times. These Collections were the labour of 30 years; and Mr. Madox frequently declared, that when young he would have given 1500 guineas for them.”

His historical collections relating to laws, customs and manners of England—80 vols. of M.S.S., nearly all in his own hand-writing, were bequeathed by his Widow to the British Museum as an addition to the Cottonian Library. Some others went into private hands.

‡ Thoresby “dined with Mr. Plaxton and his aged grandmother” five years later. She was then 90 years old, could read either print or writing without spectacles, and with unaided eyesight she also thread a very small needle, which Thoresby kept as a curiosity. All this he recorded both in his *Diary* and in the *Ducatus*.

He also copied at the Temple Church part of the epitaph of William Petyt, Deputy Keeper of the Tower Records, whom he had seen when in London in 1701. In his review for that year he names Petyt as a Yorkshire author, and joins him

Moreover, Thoresby went to the House of Lords; to Westminster Abbey, where he transcribed inscriptions from the newly-erected monument to Admiral Sir Cloudsley Shovel, and from some other of the later ones; and he found time for two of the entertainments of London. He went,—

“To hear the memorable Mr. Clinch, whose single voice, as he has learned to manage it, can admirably represent a number of persons, at sport and in hunting, and the very dogs and other animals, but none better than a quire of choristers chanting an anthem, &c.”

And he went “to see the Moving Picture, a curious piece of art,” which he thus describes:—

“The landscape looks as an ordinary picture till the clock-work behind the curtain be set at work, and then the ships move and sail distinctly upon the sea till out of sight; a coach comes out of the town, the motion of the horses and wheels are very distinct, and a gentleman in the coach that salutes the company; a hunter also and his dogs, &c., keep their course till out of sight. I had some discourse with the German inventor, Mr. Jacobus Morian; see his paper and autograph.”

Long as this account of Thoresby's stay in London in 1709 already is, it would be incomplete without further notice of his Sundays, and maintenance, when he could, of his customary attendance upon the daily services of the church. Lodging near St. Laurence's, he was at evening prayers there the day after his arrival, “which was refreshing;” and on the Saturday he writes,—

with his brother Sylvester Petyt (who erected the monument at the Temple Church) as “considerable benefactors.” They who are of known wealth and generosity are not left ignorant of opportunities for bestowing; and before quitting London in 1709 Thoresby “walked to Holborn, to remind Mr. Sylvester Petyt (late Principal of Barnard's Inn) of our Charity School, amongst other places, to which he is quite capable of being a benefactor.” In *Whitaker's Craven* there is some account of the benefactions of the Petyts, which include a library at Skipton Church, the gift of Sylvester, who was born at Storrits near Bolton Abbey, in Skipton Parish.

" . . . got part of the prayers at St. James's, but was too full of distractions ; the Lord pity and pardon ; but through mercy, I was afterward much affected at prayers in the evening at St. Laurence Church, and in singing, &c., which method is used in many churches at eight of the clock, after the shops are shut, and persons more at leisure. It was very pleasing to me to observe an extraordinary spirit of devotion in persons present, and notes for prayer desired for persons afflicted with a deep sense of sin, and therefore prayed for under the notion of great sinners under troubles of mind for sin : the Lord in mercy hear and answer prayers, and perfect the good work in thy due time. I had also afterwards (in my dear friend's absence\*) an extraordinary convenience of privacy, and was, through mercy, much affected in meditation and prayer."

Sunday, Jan<sup>r</sup> 9.—"Went to Mr. Stretton's meeting place, but he not preaching, by reason of age and the extremity of the season, with Alderman Milner to the cathedral of St. Paul's ; by their confused reading (two at the same time, the gospel or lessons) singing prayers and organs, with the continued noise and hurry of persons, that through the novelty of the method (different from that at York Minster) and the corruption of my wicked heart, it was very unprofitable to me ; the Lord pity and pardon ! To hear Dr. Burgess, who, though he had some pleasant passages, which profane wits might sport with, yet preached very well. He preached above three hours, yet seemingly without weariness to himself or auditory. Called at Christ Church Hospital ; stayed prayers and singing there ; was pleased as well as surprised with the vast numbers of orphans there comfortably provided for, and the pious and prudent management thereof. Rest of evening at the inn, more unsuitably to the Sabbath."

On the following Saturday he was at prayers again at St. James's Church. The next day was his Sunday at Hackney ; and he spent the next Sunday with Bishop Burnet as already narrated. When he called at the Temple for Mr. Plaxton, grandson of the old lady whom they visited, Mr. Plaxton was

\* Alderman Milner.



“getting up and dressing,” and Thoresby had the welcome opportunity of the prayers in the neighbouring church in Fleet Street, which we may safely call St. Dunstan’s-in-the-West. On Sunday the 6th of February his occupation was of a somewhat mingled character :—

“Walked to Sir Andrew Fountain’s in Leicester Fields, and thence to St. Ann’s, where I stayed the prayers till Sir Andrew was dressed, with whom I then went to St. James’s, the royal chapel, where Dr. Willis, the Dean of Lincoln, preached well, but I could hear little, there being upon this, Her Majesty’s birthday, so vast a concourse of the nobility of both nations as the like has rarely been seen. I saw the Kings-at-Arms, and Heralds in their formalities, with their velvet robes richly embroidered, the Union Arms nobly raised in gold and silver to a great height. I stood securely, notwithstanding the great crowds, betwixt my two friends, Norroy and Suffolk Herald,\* who knew all the nobility as they passed. After the empty glory of all this pomp was over, and I had seen the best of Queens in this world, with the splendour of the Court, I most willingly retired. After dinner, at Mr. Dale’s, walked again to the west-end of the town, to make good Sir Andrew Fountain’s promise to Baron Spanhemius, Ambassador from the King of Prussia,† who received me most courteously, and told me, by his interpreter, that he was mightily surprised with my catalogue of coins; he took notes of some that were more rare; he presented me with his picture, and honoured my Album with his name, who is the most celebrated father of the antiquaries of this age. In return, I heard a most excellent sermon at St. Clement’s, but the Church (blessed be God for so happy a sight) was so crowded with attentive hearers, that I could scarce get so far into an alley at any of the doors as to hear distinctly.”

The following Sunday was the last before his return home:—

“Afternoon, walked to hear Dr. Kennet, but found the Church so crowded that could scarce get in at the door, yet pressed forward, and though I stood in the alley the whole time,

\* Peter Le Neve and Richard Dale.

† Vol. I, page 415.

yet was well pleased, for he prayed and preached excellently. I had afterwards a little of the said worthy Dean's company, but was straitened, &c. In the evening I was at the prayers at St. Laurence Church, and requested of a devout gentleman I had observed most constantly there, that they would please to continue their prayers for those upon their journey till Friday next; it is a good provision against dangers, to have a stock of prayers going forward for us."

Having packed up books at Mr. Wyat's, and finally packed "the trunk" (for the carrier), on Monday the 14th of February Thoresby began his return journey on horseback to Leeds, in company with Alderman Milner, and some Hull gentlemen:—

"We found the roads better than we expected, the extreme frost the latter end of last week having made them capable of bearing man and horse. We baited at Ware, and reached Royston in good time, blessed be God."

This was evidently written at Royston, for it is prefaced with,—“Lord, grant us a safe return in Thy due time to our native country and poor families.” It is manifest that Thoresby set out under full apprehension of the difficulties to be encountered. They left Royston, “began our day's work,” by six the next day, “in a cold morning,” and got to Stamford in good time. On the Wednesday,—

“Rose very early; had a most severe cold morning, and found the roads now very bad in some places, the ice being broke by the coaches that it bore not, and rougher than a ploughed field in others, yet hard as iron, that it battered the horses feet; the servant's was downright lame, that when we baited he was sent before, to make the best he could of the way. Afterwards, when ours were brought forth, mine (that ailed little when put up) being now stiff, was worse than his, that we had a melancholy afternoon of it; the ice breaking, we were often forced to alight, and had none to assist in any matter but the Alderman himself, who acted the part of a most kind friend, but had more trouble than I was pleased

with, yet could not avoid; but it pleased God to bring us in safety and good time to Carlton by Newark, where we lodged."

On arriving at Stamford, Thoresby had considered their journey half over, but they were now compelled to take a day more than he thought of. On Thursday he wrote,—

"Our measures being broke by yesterday's rough ways and casualties, we set not forward so soon, designing only for Doncaster. We found the roads dangerous as well as troublesome at the Eel-pie-house by Tuxford, and afterwards tedious by snow lately fallen in Yorkshire; but blessed be God! we arrived safe and in good time at Doncaster; walked into the town."

"Friday the 18th.—Began our journey with courage, but was presently cooled, the road being full of snow, and, which was worse, upon a continued ice almost, the melted snow being frozen again, that made it dangerous and very troublesome; so that I was more fatigued with this last twenty miles than all the journey besides. My horse slipped dangerously often, and once fell quite down (as I was leading him into Wentbrigg), but, blessed be God! we arrived safe at our desired habitations betwixt two and three, and found our families well; blessed be his holy name! I was truly thankful, and desirous to make a public acknowledgement of the goodness of our merciful God in his house of prayer, whither I went with a joyful heart at four, and may say in sincerity of heart, I hope, with the Psalmist, "I thought of thy loving kindness, O God, in the midst of thy temple!" I was the more deeply sensible of His great mercy in protecting me from the many dangers my sins have exposed me to, in about three hundred miles journey, and that in such a storm as the like has rarely happened, because that several persons in this neighbourhood have, during this interval, met with their death wounds in a few miles, as Mr. Samuel Harpar in his return from Leeds to Farnley, and Parson Atkinson, who was lamentably shot betwixt his own house and his church at Methley (see the piteous account of it in cousin Cookson's letter to me).\* I might add the sudden death of the Curate there

\* This letter, in the British Museum, is dated on the 8th of January 1708-9:—

"On Wednesday last Parson Atkinson of Methley, a man whom I know you and all that knew him valued for his general learning and acquisitions, was

since, who officiated the Lord's Day afternoon, and was dead at Monday noon."

Thoresby's public recognition of deliverances from the dangers of this Winter journey between London and Leeds was not restricted to the Leeds end only. He had asked for the prayers of St. Laurence's congregation until the Friday, and the event justified his precaution in adding an extra day to the four which that journey ordinarily occupied. He now sought to return thanks in London, not through the medium of St. Laurence's only; but that of the Dissenter Mr. Tong, at whose house he had examined the manuscripts of the late Dr. Sampson. "And can anyone question the sincerity, or the true Catholicity in spirit of the following entry in his Diary on the day after his safe arrival home:—

"Wrote to Mr. Tong to bless God on my behalf, and enclosed a note for the minister that officiates at the evening prayers at St. Laurence Church, for the like in that congregation; and if any more rigid of either denomination should censure this as a halting betwixt two, I shall (to avoid arguments) appeal to the searcher of hearts for my sincerity herein; and methinks it is ungrateful (to say no worse) not to desire that praise may succeed prayers, for mercies received, in all the congregations of his saints."

When in the latter part of the year following, 1710, Thoresby engaged in correspondence with his new acquaintance Le Neve concerning the Pedigree and Arms of his family, he became also

unfortunately slain in the following manner." He had been shooting, and about noon, snow commencing, he gave his gun to a boy whom he had with him, telling him to throw his coat-lap over the lock. It went off, and shot Mr. Atkinson in the thigh, piercing "the fatal place which is commonly called The Pope's Eye." This happened between the Church and the Rectory. Dying, and notwithstanding pain, Mr. Atkinson "had the courage and presence of mind to fall upon the other knee (as I am told) and prayed with great fervour for his family, the church, and his neighbours; and told those present (which I suppose were 2 or 3 neighbours, and his own son), that he was dying, and that he felt his eyes fix." He was carried home on a "hyer," but his speech failed and he died soon afterward.

a medium of communication between Le Neve and Alderman Milner in the matter of a grant of Arms, as is shown by the following letter:—\*

“S<sup>r</sup>

“I have sent you 2 paterns of Coats & Crests, one of S<sup>r</sup>. Henry St. Georges devising, Scilt this on this paper, the other mine on the loose, and the word confirm shall not be in the grant; but as to augmentations we have no power to grant them. What I meant was as you mean so that without Mr. Milner will have an absolute grant of one of these or some other which shall be fixed upon, I cannot p’tend to doe anything in it.

“As to what relates to yourself I must beg another opportunity. The copy of the petition and certificate are inclosed. Both the draughts must be sent to me again with a private mark which of them is approved.

“I have some of the hand writing of the Earle of Warrington and some few other of the nobility, as covers of letters with their seale, which if you please I will lay by for you.

“If Mr. Milner will have the issues of his brothers to have the benefit of the Grant it must be so mentioned in the petition and worded as you would have them have it, but Mr. William Milner may petition alone on his own and their behalf.

“My most humble service to him,

“I am,

“S<sup>r</sup> y<sup>r</sup> most humble

“Servant

“PETER LE NEVE NORROY.”

“9th. of Sept. 1710

College of Arms

London.”

“To Mr. Ralph Thoresby at Leeds in Yorkshire.”

\* From the original in possession of J. H. Wurtzburg, Esq., of Leeds.

## ADDITIONAL NOTE.

"*Henry Thoresby, Esq.*" Page 133.

Little as his monument has been cared for, Henry Thoresby was in his day a man of note, and a distinguished parishioner of Hackney. When Thoresby re-visited Hackney in 1712, he was entertained at the Vicarage:—

"Mr. Newcome, the worthy Vicar, invited me to his house, and showed me a register of the Parish that he had lately recovered, wherein are many observables; As, their having a Select Vestry about 100 years ago, by authority from the Bishop, of which Henry Thoresby, Esq., always subscribes first. I was pleased to see his autograph, and spelling his name as we do now, though the clerks who wrote the instrument frequently write it Thursby; he showed me also a letter to Bishop David Dalbin, a benefactor who lieth buried next my said kinsman, that the Earl of Oxford, who died in 1604, was buried there."

The Faculty for this Select Vestry was granted, 9 December 1613, by John, Bishop of London, in response to a petition which it recites. The Petitioners alleged:—

" . . . through the general admittance of all sorts of Parishioners unto their vestries and meetings for the public good of the said Parish, there falleth out great disquietness and hindrance to the good proceeding which they desire should be in their said Parish, by the dissent of some evil disposed, and others of the inferior and meanest sort of the parishioners and inhabitants of that parish, being greater in number, and thereby more ready to cross the good proceedings for the benefit of the Church and parish than able to further by Counsell or otherwise the good thereof."

Wherefore the petitioners desired a Vestry consisting of "a certain number, namely two and thirty, beside the Parson, Vicar, Curate and Churchwardens;" and they proposed for Vestrymen,

along with others, Sir John Hay, Knight; Sir Edward Hunden, Knight; and Henry Thoresby, Esq.,—

“the most sufficient of that parish, and of the ancients or better sort there, and such as are most likely to be to seek the good of the parish and the well governing thereof.”

The Hackney monument had these inscriptions:—

“Here under lyeth the body of Henry Thoresby, of Thoresby, in the County of Yorke, Esquire, late Counsellor in the Law, Bench and Reader of Lincolnes Inn, Justice of the Peace and of the Quorum, one of the Masters of the most honourable Court of Chancery, and one of the sixteen Governors of King James’s Hospital, elected at the first foundation thereof by John Thomas Sutton, Esquire, the only Founder. Which Henry Thoresby passed his Pilgrimage in this Life in all Godliness and Christian Piety, and so constantly continued unto his last breath, which he yielded up to the Almighty in this Towne of Hackney, on the eleventh day of May 1615.”

“Here under lieth the body of Jane, late Wife of the said Henry Thoresby, Esquire, Daughter of John Palmer, of Clerkenwell, in the County of Middlesex, Esquire, and Paulina his Wife, Daughter of Anthony Sandes, of Throwly, in the County of Kent, Esquire; which Jane lived with the said Henry in Wedlock 30 years and more, and had issue by him two daughters, viz. Jane, who died in her infancy about six years of age, and Eleanor Lady Hardres, the now wife of Sir Thomas Hardres, of Great Hardres, in the County of Kent, Knight, by whom she had issue four sons and one daughter; which said Jane over-lived her said Husband, Henry Thoresby, and died in all Christian Piety on the 18th Day of August, 1616.”

Among the unpublished letters to Thoresby possessed by Mr. Wurtzburg, the use of which for this publication he has very kindly allowed, there is one written by Arthur Collins, the London bookseller:—

“May 31st. 1723.”

“Sr.

“This Abstract will I hope be satisfactory, but I hav’nt leisure to write it over; for w<sup>ch</sup> I desire your excuse. I hope

you will be so kind to lett me see you before you leave the Town, who am

Y<sup>r</sup> affect Friend

& Humble Serv<sup>t</sup>.,

ARTH<sup>r</sup> COLLINS."

The following is the Abstract spoken of:—

"Henry Thoresby one of the Masters of y<sup>e</sup> High Ct. of Chancery makes his Will 7 April 1614, his body to be buried at Hackney; having assured to his wife for part of her joynture his man<sup>r</sup> of Thoresby worth 140<sup>lb</sup> p. Ann. as also his dwelling House & Garden at Hackney worth 20<sup>lb</sup> p. Ann. he by this Will confirms them to her, and after her decease y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> Man<sup>r</sup> of Thoresby to descend to Richard Hardresse & Thoresby Hardresse his Grandchildren. Bequeaths to his Broth<sup>r</sup> Ralph Thoresby 10<sup>lb</sup> p. Ann. for his Life out of two leases of St. Catharines & Wenlock barn & after his decease to remain to Henry Thoresby his Godson, & Wills 10<sup>lb</sup> p. Ann. more to y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> Henry. Wills furth<sup>r</sup> that there be p<sup>d</sup> yearly out of y<sup>e</sup> said two Leases during the continuance of same 46<sup>s</sup> 8<sup>d</sup> yearly to y<sup>e</sup> Church Wardens of Hauxwell Parish where he was born 20<sup>s</sup> whereof to be distributed for two sermons the one on Midlent Sunday, the other the Sunday after Michaelmas, in remembrance of y<sup>e</sup> death of his Fath<sup>r</sup> and Mother at those times & y<sup>e</sup> other 26s. 8d. to be distributed part in bread & part in money amongst 13 of the poorest Householders of y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> Parish. And for this purpose he devises y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> two Leases w<sup>ch</sup> then yielded 180<sup>lb</sup> p. Ann. & w<sup>d</sup> yield 200<sup>lb</sup> p. Ann. to S<sup>r</sup> Ant. Palmer S<sup>r</sup> Adrian Scroope and his Son-in-law S<sup>r</sup> Tho Hardresse in trust & confidence that they pay the sd. Annuitys. Wills to his brother Ralph & his son Henry the Inheritance of a Close call'd Grunsdell in Barden worth 4 lb p. Ann. as also a lease for 40 years from his death of two Farms in Thoresby worth 20 marks above y<sup>e</sup> old Rent for w<sup>ch</sup> he app<sup>ts</sup> that they pay to his Sister Hutchinson's children only 5 marks as a Legacy from him. Wills to his son & d<sup>ter</sup> his Man<sup>r</sup> of Barden and desires they will continue his Brother their Tenant during his Life, he collecting & sending his rents as he did to him. He wills to his d<sup>ter</sup> his Gilt Cupp of Mother of Pearl, his own Picture & 3 more of y<sup>e</sup> best & 40 lb to buy her a Velvet Gown. To his Brother Ralph's



# ADDITIONAL NOTE.

younger children 20 marks a piece to be pd them at 18 years of Age. To the children of his Sister Nichols 5<sup>lb</sup>. To his Cos<sup>n</sup> Thwaites, his Cos<sup>n</sup> Arnold, his Cos<sup>n</sup> Anne Ducket, his Neece Burrouse every of them a Ring of 18s. To the poor of Hackney 4<sup>lb</sup> to be distributed at y<sup>e</sup> 4 principal feasts of y<sup>e</sup> year next after after his Decease & to the poor of St. Catharines & Clerkenwell 20<sup>s</sup> each. Constitutes his well beloved Wife Executor, & Overseers S<sup>r</sup> Ant. Palmer, S<sup>r</sup> Adrian Scroop, his Son in Law, Mr. Saunderson his old Friend & his Brother Ralph & for their pains a piece of gold of 26s. He gives to Lincoln's Inn 10<sup>lb</sup> they owed him & 5 marks more towds building of their Chapel. He desires y<sup>e</sup> Monum<sup>t</sup> of Brass w<sup>ch</sup> he caus<sup>d</sup> to be made for a remembrance of his Father and Mother, may be sett up in the Quire of Hauxwell Church over ag<sup>st</sup> their Tomb & to cause their tombs to be repair'd. He would have his Cos<sup>n</sup> Geo Thoresby to be remembred with some small token of his love as also his Cos<sup>n</sup> Ralph Raklin of Lincoln's Inn.

"The Probate beares date 28 June 1615 Ex Regist<sup>r</sup> vocat Rudd (quire 61) in Cur. Prerog Cant."

"For Mr. Thoresby."



## XIV.

## Short Excursions and Further Correspondence.

METHLEY HALL—BARMBOW HALL—HUMOUROUS LETTERS OF PARSON PLAXTON—RIBSTONE—AT YORK—MORE CORRESPONDENCE WITH STRYPE—LETTER TO LE NEVE.

DURING the three years which elapsed before his next visit to London, Thoresby was little from home. He took his only daughter, Grace, in her seventeenth year, to a noted school at the Manor-House in York; travelling by coach, where they unexpectedly met with a young lady named Hutton, having the same destination. She was descended from Matthew Hutton, Archbishop of York in the reigns of Elizabeth and James the First; and Thoresby says it was “an acceptable convenience” for both “Mrs. Hutton” and his daughter, they “being acquainted before they were bedfellows.” With this exception, his excursions were almost confined to his own immediate neighbourhood. With a Mr. Rither he walked to Methley, 13 June 1709, “by Swillington Bridge to avoid the rush-bearing at Rothwell;” and,—

“Was mightily pleased with the sight of Methley Hall, which was built in the memorable year 1588\* (as appears by that date upon the front, under the arms of the family, with seven quarterings), by the famous Baron Savile, whose picture, with his learned brother Sir Henry’s, of Eton College, are the chief ornaments of the great dining-room, as the arms in the windows are of the gallery; the nobility and gentry are marshalled according to the Wapenstakes in the several Ridings of Yorkshire. I took especial notice of my dear friend’s, Mr. Thornton’s, because

\* The year of the Armada.

it has not the superfluous addition of the trees, and of our own family, which is placed next the Scroops and Danbys, and has the cheveron plain, as it was and ought now to be borne, not engrailed, as Sir William Dugdale needlessly added it in the last visitation, ours being the eldest branch, and indeed the only male issue of the family.\* Walked (over the draw-bridge) through the Park, to the lower part of the town, to visit Mr. Goodwin, the new Rector. In return, visited my kind friend Mr. Lowther, Rector of Swillington; transcribed his father's monument in the church, and took notice of some antiquities which are elsewhere noted; he walked with me to brother Hough's at Newsomes Green."

He was again at Methley Hall in the following January, with the Recorder, Mr. Thornton,—

"Transcribed the names of the gentry from their arms in the great gallery, as they were in Queen Elizabeth's time; found both our own in their several wapenstakes; after a courteous entertainment by Mr. Savile,† returned safe, blessed be God."

"11 August 1709.—Walked to Berwick, to visit Mr. Plaxton in his widowhood; walked with Mr. Plaxton thence to Barmbow Hall; dined with Sir Thomas Gascoigne, which place was of old the seat of the Greenfields (of whom a Serjeant-at-law is buried in Berwick church), now of the Gascoignes, from the time of King James I., as I conjecture from the ornaments of lions and unicorns in the great dining-room. Walked home by way of Manston, once the seat of the Dyneleys (see the monuments in Whitkirk), and the Moors of Austrope, through Whitkirk and Hawton to Leeds."

About two months after this, Thoresby had an amusing letter from the Rector of Berwick on the subject of gold, ruler

"In church and state, court and camp, conventicle and cloister . . . arbitrary as the Mogul, as imperious as the Czar, as victorious as Eugene, and able to conquer both Marlborough and his Duchess . . ."

\* Vol. I., page 7.

† John Savile, Esq., grandson of Sir John Savile, Baron of the Exchequer. In March 1712, Thoresby was again at Methley Hall with Mr. Robinson of Rokeby.

"Let us stand upon our guard, and rather conquer than yield to its force and power; for it useth all its prisoners like galley-slaves, and keeps them in a perpetual drudgery; it is an idolater in the Indies, a Jew all the world over, a Mahometan at Constantinople, a false Christian at Rome, and everything at Great-Britain; what it is at Leeds your Aldermen can tell. I am sure it has little footing at Barwick, where we are all poor Palatines and Camisars, *i.e.* hardly worth a shirt. Adieu, my friend.

"I am

"Yours more than gold's

"G. BARWICK."

The entire letter has already been printed in the Thoresby Correspondence.

The following letters, humourously written to a York watch-maker, a Quaker, are in the British Museum:—\*

"From Berwick in Elmet The Residence of my Fleshly Tabernacle this 9th. Day of the 6th Month in the Year of our Outward Christ 1706, where thou may'st be welcome to such as I keep."

"Friend Mark,

"I Desired Francis Hildyard who lives at y<sup>e</sup> Sign of the Dead letter and gains much by trading that way; To bring an Erroneous Watch to receive thy Friendly Correction and reproofe. She has been long Guilty of Lyeing and would seldome speake y<sup>e</sup> Truth, by her Leasing I have been often led into Mistakes. She has been twice at thy School for Amendm<sup>t</sup> but as yet has profited very little under thy hands; I fear her Principles are not good for She is very apt to Lye nor dare I confide in her outward Indications. I wish thou couldest cast this Spirit of untruth out of her and make her go in y<sup>e</sup> way of honesty and verity plainly. Friend Mark I Confede much in thy Abillities and outward Skill, and I hope thy fidelity and Integrity is Eaquall to them: if those defects proceed from any faults in y<sup>e</sup> Inward man, I mean y<sup>e</sup> Spring [or] from any other cause

\* Lansdowne M.S.S. 399.

unknown to me, A man of little skill, I must desire Thee to Rectifie them Evill principles that thou knowest will Seldome produce good Fruit. I fear there is some latent root of Evill in her otherwise she would not thus Deceive."

Plaxton then proceeds with the history of his watch, and tells how it had been given,—

"To Lodewick Muggleton; at y<sup>e</sup> Death of Lodewick by his Exec<sup>r</sup> to a Popish Priest who sold her, or rather exchanged her, for a Snush Box to a Socinian who rapt her of to a Baptist for a fat Bullsegg. After that a Church of England Protestant Bought her for 20 loads of Blendings. Since that she has been at School with a Quaker. So that she has been at y<sup>e</sup> Mass-house, Meeting Place, Cathedrall and place of silent worship. One thing I pray observe, she will recon after y<sup>e</sup> Stile, and out goes y<sup>e</sup> Sun and Moon by many minuts in a day, so that I fancy she would become a French Hugenet: lend her thy helpfull art and make her go as true as Geo: Foxes Equinoctiall Dyall of which we have an account in his Last will and Testam<sup>t</sup>. May a Principle of truth regulate her Index and thine, and a good Spirit Guide thee and thy Friend, as y<sup>e</sup> world call me

"GEO. PLAXTON."

It appears this untruthful watch came back uncured, and was sent off again shortly with another letter:—

"The 13th. of the 7th. Month,  
Carnally called Sept<sup>r</sup> 1706."\*

"Friend Mark,

"I am once more resolved to send thy sickly fallacious Patient to thee to put her under thy friendly skill and care. She is very much fallen from the Truth, and I am afraid is now guided by a very evil Spirit. Since she was under thy skilful hand she is become an absolute Quaker (as the World calls our Friends), for she will observe no rule nor artful ordinances, but goes at pleasure, and wholly guides herself. She is

\* Plaxton here reckons according to the Old Style, making March the first month.

so very much in love with liberty and Freedom that she has cast her chain as a badge of Slavery. I pray thee once more to reduce her to some tolerable order. Rectify her present errors, for she abhors truth and scorns infallibility. If thou dost think her chain a mark of bondage fix it not but leave her spirit at liberty; if it be an emblem of usefulness revet it fast. I find by discourse of some of our friends and acquaintances that she has been a rambler in her youth and very unsettled for many years. She has made a Tower (as the World would phrase it) through all the land of error . . . alas the old defilements of lying continue still. Thou sayest thou hast set the contract wheel right, and yet the whole machine goes wrong—thou tellest me thou hast cleaned her, and yet her filthy tricks remain—thou sayest thou hast taken out the bruises, but still the old sores continue, and thou hast turned the edges of her Teeth and yet she remains unconverted from her faults. Thus in a sense literal, O Watchman thou watchest in vain. Thou demandest the 5th. part of a £. Sterling (as the World phrases it) for thy labour. I own where thy labours profit me they are worthy of recompense; but she has been wound up regularly ever since she came, and see how she erreth and faileth in her duty. I fear her spring is weak, and her inward man defective. She has lost about two hours in a week's running. I have once more sent her to thee, prithee enter into a friendly conference with her, and reform the vice of lying. I will board her with thee for some days, and pay for her board if thou requirest it, for I would not be too troublesome to thee. I have desired our friend Hildyard to content thee for thy pains. Thus committing her to thy friendly care and correction, I remain thy friend though unknown to thee

“GEORGE PLAXTON.”

Thos. Wilson says in his *West Riding Pedigrees*, that George Plaxton “was B.D., Rector of Berwick-in-Elmet, was an excellent Parish Priest, Historian, and a famous comic poet.” Plaxton's most known poetical composition is an election poem entitled,—“The Yorkshire Horse-Racers.” Another publication,—“Advice to New-Married Husbands, in Hudibrastic verse,” is said on the

Title-page to be written "By the Author of the Yorkshire Horse-Racers." It was "Printed for John Morphew near Stationers' Hall" in 1712. In the Library at Bamburgh Castle, the bequest of Archdeacon Sharp, descendant from Archbishop Sharp, there is a copy of it in a Volume containing also the 2nd editions of Pope's Essay on Criticism and Rape of the Lock, and other separate publications in Verse. The Volume has in it Archdeacon Sharp's book-plate, and a manuscript Index at the beginning states that Advice to New-Married Husbands is "by old Mr. Plaxton." But the statement upon the Title-page must be fictitious, just as Dr. King's "Journey to London" purports to be from the French of Monsieur Sorbriere. No one who compares the poem with Mr. Plaxton's writings can believe it to be his, it is far too coarse.

Thoresby gives particulars of a visit to Ribstone, where he was courteously received by Sir Henry Goodrick, the fourth Baronet,—

"Who showed me several valuable curiosities, ancient writings from King John and others, relating to the Templar's commandery there of old; the chapel is yet in being, and accommodated for present use: there are two modern inscriptions relating to the family of the Goodricks, which, though but here since the Reformation, yet is of good antiquity in Lincolnshire. I saw the pedigree of nine descents before that in Mr. Hopkinson's M.S., several of which have been very eminent. I was best pleased with those of Sir John Goodrick, who gave the tithes, worth better than 100*l.* per annum, to the church of Hunsingore. He wrote also a Latin History of this nation, in a large folio; I saw the autograph and some original surveys of Christopher Saxton's; took notice of the family pictures since the Reformation, but was troubled that the famous Bishop's, who was also Lord Chancellor, was not there; but he gave his estate, &c., to the eldest branch, this being the second. There is also a good library, though I had not time to view it, only took notice of a Common-Prayer-book, 1552."

Returning by Thorner, he “transcribed Sir John Savile’s epitaph from his monument lately erected there.” This visit to Ribstone, in June 1710, is explained by a letter from Sir Henry Goodrick to Thoresby on the 21st of May previous:—

“I received your letter by Mr. Frogget, and assure you there needs no apology for the request in it, and I would immediately set about sending you as exact an account as I could of my Grandfather’s donation, and other things, which perhaps you may think not unworthy of your knowledge, but that I flatter myself you will shortly do me the favour of a visit at Ribstan, where you may peruse the original writings relating to that affair. If a dinner’s visit will not be long enough for taking extracts out of them, I shall think my time very well bestowed in assisting you a day or two here, where you shall be very welcome, if it suits with your convenience.”

Sir Henry Goodricke adds that he should have sent an account of his grandfather’s gift of tithes to Hunsingore to Dr. Kennet, who had been his Tutor in Oxford, but did not know of Kennet’s book until after it was printed. But some years later Bishop Kennet was himself at Ribstone, and among his manuscripts now in the British Museum are the following memoranda:—\*

“At the seat of Sir Henry Goodrick, Bart., Sept. 2, 1723. I took an abstract of the following Benefaction;” namely, Grant of Impropriated Tithes in aid of the Vicarage of Hunsingore, 25 April, 16 Chas. 2nd.

“I saw in the custody of the said Sir H. Goodrick a fair copy of a M.S. in folio p.p. 583 entituled,—

Rerum Anglicanum Historia  
Ab Ingressu Julii Cæsaris  
In Britannium ad exitum  
Regni Johannis Regis  
Deducta

\* Lausdowne M.S.S. 972.



Opere Johannis Godrici Anglo-  
Eboracensis Equ. Ant. & Baronetti  
Cum apparatu prefixo  
Que ad justum Anglia Historia  
Volumen Latine Contexandum  
in senice possim  
Anno Domini 1665."

On the 18th of July 1711, a twelvemonth after Thoresby had taken his daughter to the Manor School, he again journeyed to York with her, but not by coach,—“she performed very well, though the first time on horseback.” Nor was she returning to school; her father “placed her at Cousin Nicholson’s, who received her very respectfully.” It was the time of the Assizes, and the Judges, Lord Chief Justice Sir Thomas Parker and Judge Bury, paid Thoresby marked attention. He supped with them, “and spent the evening with great satisfaction . . . being both persons of curiosity, as well as eminency in their own faculty.” And on the 20th,—

“According to Baron Bury’s request, went to show his Lordship the multangular tower and Roman wall, betwixt the Manor and the Mint-yard, of which see Philosophical Transactions, No. 149.\* His Lordship was mightily pleased with so copious and visible remains of the Roman Grandeur, which he had always enquired of at the assizes, but could never learn what it was till I showed it him. His Lordship carried me along with him (in the Sheriff’s coach) to the Castle, where the cause betwixt Sir Henry Piers and Mr. Walker was tried before my Lord Chief Justice, who would have me sit next his Lordship in the court, and took my travelling album, and writ three remarkable sentences, &c.”

The above is testimony to the reputation to which Thoresby had attained, although the work for which he is now most

\* The paper, dated 10 July 1683, is entitled,—“*Some observations upon the Ruins of a Roman Wall and Multangular Tower at York. By the judicious Mar. Lister, Esq.*” It relates principally to the courses of brick which intersect the stone-work. Prefixed is an engraving of the Tower, by T. Savage.

known was in preparation only. He maintained at this time an interesting correspondence with Strype, for whose publications he procured some subscribers, which, as will be seen, became a work of difficulty when party spirit ran high in the matter of Dr. Sacheverell. A month after his return from London in 1709 he wrote to Strype:—\*

“Leedes, March 19, 1708-9.”

“Rev. Sir,

“It is a pleasure to me to think of the most agreeable entertainment you afforded me at Leyton with the noble variety of M.S.S. and original papers which are happily deposited in your hands, and I can hardly forbear repining that no greater preferments has forced you from your retirements, and shall be glad of your deserved advancement; a competency alone not being sufficient for one so eminently serviceable. I am glad to find by your excellent History of the Reformation that my countryman Bishop Guest was so signally useful in that affair. Bishop Bains was also a learned man, though unhappily engaged for the pretended ancient church: the name is yet flourishing in this parish.

“My service to your good Lady and daughters, to Mr. Newcome and his, and if he be your hearer at Hackney, to Mr. Morland; he promised me an autograph of his noted namesake Sir Samuel. I dare not name my kind friend Mr. Dawson, because I did not recollect that he lived at Hackney till it was too late to wait upon him.

“Your most obliged humble Servant,

“RALPH THORESBY.”

Strype's reply is dated Low Leyton, Aug. 4, 1709:—

“Sir,

“I have a letter of your's lying by me now a great while, but, because it seemed not to require any speedy answer, I have omitted hitherto the returning you my thanks for it. There in, Sir, you express a value for me and my performances,

\* Additional M.S.S., 5853; as also the succeeding letters from Thoresby to Strype.

for which I am beholden to you; and for your good wishes on my behalf, they are such as others of my friends and well-willers now and then kindly express. I am, I thank God, contented with my present circumstances; and I ought to be so, while many worthier and better men are inferior to me in worldly respects. I must confess I should be glad of more leisure and ease at these years, that I might digest and publish, for the public good, those great heaps of valuable collections, relating to our church's history, or the great and good men that have made considerable figures in their times, which otherwise, at my death, must be all lost, and all my pains in transcribing perish.

"Sir, I have a few more autographs at your service, being the letters of George Buchanan, the Scotchman; Mr. Camden; Egerton and Coke, Attorneys-General; Stubbs, wrote with his left hand, his right being chopped off, the reason you read in Queen Elizabeth's History; William Lambarde, the antiquarian; and Sir Thomas Bodley, the founder of the famous library at Oxon. I name them, that if you have any of their letters already, I need not send them. Direct me how I may safely convey them unto you, and I shall do it.

"I should be glad to hear that you have brought to some conclusion your good pains in the Topographical History. I perceive you have had the use of some of the manuscripts of Dr. Sampson. While he was alive, he would have put me upon a task, to write the history of the eminent men, and especially writers, of the University of Cambridge, and told me he had great collections that would be serviceable that way. There is one of Cambridge now, an able man, that hath been making collections divers years for that purpose. I wish he had the perusal of those papers. He is now in London, and if I knew in whose hands Dr. Sampson's manuscripts were, I would endeavour to procure those collections for him to use. I am glad you find anything in my late book that may be of use, or any pleasure to you. I have not yet done: the next venture, I think, will be to see how the learned will stand disposed to subscribe for the Life of Archbishop Matthew Parker; for without the countenance of subscription, these large books will not

comport with the bookseller. But, Sir, I will detain you no longer, but commending you to God's protection,

"I remain, Sir, your very humble servant,

"JOHN STRYPE."

Thoresby answered on the 13th of September:—

"As to Dr. Sampson's M.S.S., they are imperfect and in different hands, none of which I can find leisure to methodize even what they had. I had leave in the presence of one of them to rummage over a considerable heap of letters and historical notes: most relate to Nonconformity and would only come in by the bye in such a treatise as you mention. I borrowed four (which you will find an account of in my last) to transcribe, but returned them. But if anything in my own possession may be of use to you or your friend, you shall have them transmitted.

"I wish you had not excused yourself from writing the History of Cambridge Authors. Wood's Oxon is a useful book, notwithstanding his rancour. What would it have been if of more candid temper?

"Dear Sir,

"Your very humble servant,

"RALPH THORESBY."

In the following March Thoresby wrote again:—

"Rev. Sir,

"I am ashamed to tell you what a mean proficiency is made to the subscription to your excellent book. I thought that the recommendation of six Prelates, the Bishop of London's especially, would have influenced some who yet denied me; and what is worse, their own interest in the public. I do most honestly assure you that I have taken more pains, though I have but procured two (beside my own which you may always depend upon) than I did before for as many sets. But the unfortunate Dr. Sacheverell has set the whole nation in a ferment. Persons of your candour and my own real sentiments, though never so sincerely for the Church, yet if they cannot allow the intemperate heat of some on both hands, and plead but for the practical

power of Godliness, especially if the hated word moderation slip out upon any occasion, are reflected upon as false brethren, though they attend the prayers of the Church twice every day of the week, and conform in every punctilio to the Public Establishment, that I am become a sort of recluse in a populous town. The V.D.Ms.\* and their hearers, on the other hand, think it improper to subscribe to what is professedly the memoirs of an Archbishop, so that the number at present of those that are truly Catholic is very small. But I hope when this wretched Fret is over, persons will revert to a true Christian temper, when you may expect to hear better from me. In the mean time the subscribers at present are George Lawson, of East Harsley in Yorkshire, Esq., Geo. Plaxton, M.A., Rector of Barwick-in-Elmet, and, dear Sir,

“Your affectionate, humble servant,

“RALPH THORESBY.”†

This time Strype was prompt in replying:—

“Low Leyton, March 21, 1709.” (O.S.)

“Dear Sir,

“Your letter dated March 13 showed your friendship towards me, by your concern that you have been no more successful in the subscriptions; declaring to me your pains therein. Sir, I am

\* Nonconformist Ministers; the affix V.D.M. to their names denoting *Verbi Dei Minister*.

† The Rev. W. Cole, from whose collection of M.S.S. the above is taken, appends a note, that Strype had endorsed the letter “Mr. Thoresby. Subscriptions to Abp. Parker;” to which Mr. Cole adds,—“But he meant Grindall, no doubt.” Cole is here wrong. Mr. Hunter has published Plaxton’s letter consenting to subscribe, in these terms:—“I shall readily subscribe for Mr. Strype’s Annals of Archbishop Parker, though his last was a very dry book, and wants both moisture and seasoning.” (Strype’s Annals of the Reformation, Vol. I. 1709). The letter is undated, but its conclusion proves when it was written:—“I am sorry for the loss of my good friend Mr. Alderman Lawson; I wish I knew his successor in all points both as Alderman and Christian: he lived to a good old age, which God does sometimes make a distinguishing favour to those he loves; a virtuous old age is commonly the reward of good men: let you and I endeavour to be old in goodness, that our years may be encreased.” Godfrey Lawson, Esq., Alderman and ex-Mayor of Leeds, who committed Oliver Heywood to prison, and enlarged the Grammar School (Vol. I, page 46), died on the 27th of January 1709-10, when 80 years old.

extremely sensible of your good will to me and my studies, and thank you very heartily for it: but surely, Sir, I did not intend to put you to any trouble, further than as it lay in your way to propose the book to such persons of your acquaintance as you esteemed to be reading and inquisitive men, especially into the affairs of our Church, in the age of its reformation; and so I thank you for your three subscriptions, which will help on to a competent number to encourage the printing: whereof I believe Mr. Wyatt hath sufficient to set the press on work within a short time. The other thing indeed you show your concern for, namely, these strange heats, and that unchristian party-making and party-taking is the very matter that hath not a little troubled and affected me. And again, I am heartily sorry to see that this spirit of contention has spread as far north as you: and so it is gotten as far west; for at Exeter they are all divided, as a friend of mine of that country lately told me, and that about the same matter.

“And here, Sir, I must acquaint you with something concerning myself: who, although I am no party-man, but would be a good Catholic Christian, as you are, and a sincere son of the Church of England; yet I am gotten in, I know not how, into this business. I happened to speak to some friends in behalf of Archbishop Grindal, with some warmth against that unworthy, base character, that was given him in that sermon preached at St. Paul’s,\* and that the venerable name of one of our first reformers ought to have more respect, and to be vindicated: adding, that I had written his Life, that would give another account of him; and did intend to publish it after Bishop Parker. This that I had said took wind among the citizens and Parliament-men, who have set so hard upon me to publish it speedily,

\* In his famous sermon before the Lord Mayor of London, on “The Perils of False Brethren, both in Church and State,” Dr. Sacheverel said:—“A man must be very weak, or something worse, that thinks or pretends the Dissenters are to be gained, or won over, by any other grants and indulgencies than giving up our whole Constitution . . . Have they not ever since their unhappy plantation in this Kingdom, by the intercession of that False Son of the Church, Bishop Grindal, always improved and rose upon their demands in the permission of the Government? Insomuch that Queen Elizabeth, that was deluded by that perfidious Prelate to the toleration of the Genevian discipline, found it such an headstrong and encroaching monster, &c.

and such a number there was of voluntary subscribers towards it, that I have consented to do it, a little out of its course.\* But I am, as I hear, mightily censured for it; though I do not intend to make the least reflections upon any. And I truly think it a duty to clear the reputation of so good a man, long since deceased and gone to his rest, and hath slept in honour thus long. The book will be about one hundred sheets in folio, and is proposed at 10s., and there are three presses at work about it. I will venture to set you down as a subscriber, and I know you will be pleased with the book. I can proceed no farther, but assuring you that I am, Sir, your sincere friend,

“And obliged humble servant,  
“J. STRYPE.”

Thoresby to Strype:—

“Rev. Sir,

“Leedes, 22 Apl. 1710.

“Yours of 21 March was very welcome: I always rejoice to see your hand. What you write of Archbishop Grindall’s Life was very agreeable. I shall heartily subscribe to it: for it often grieved me that the memory of so venerable and pious a Reformer should be so unworthily reflected upon. The hastening the publication is the best effect that Dr. Sacheverell’s heat has produced. Some are ready to say you should answer him expressly, but I think you are in the right not to intermeddle with late transactions. I lately saw an original picture of Stubbes, with his hand painted in a corner of the board; and this inscription, Dulcis Amor Patriæ. But what I mention it for is because he is writ Gulielmus Pagæus Stubbæus; whereas the letter you sent me is subscribed Jhon Stubbe Scava. Quere, whether genuine.

“Yr. very humble Servant,

“RALPH THORESBY.”

Strype to Thoresby:—

“Leyton, May 13, 1710.”

“Sir,

“I thank you for your kind letter, though of a stale date, having received it but a few days ago. I am glad you approve

\* Hence Mr. Cole’s supposition of a mistake in Strype’s note on the preceding letter from Thoresby. The Life of Grindall was published in 1710; Archbishop Parker’s, in 1711.

of this hasty doing of mine, in publishing at this juncture a good Archbishop's Life, lest his memory should be wronged. We have got a good picture of him to face the book, a thing I know you will be well pleased with; as I hope I shall also have for Archbishop Parker (if I live to publish his Life) from an excellent original of him, once belonging to Bishop Cosins, but now my own. As soon as we get Grindal abroad, Mr. Wyat is determined to put Parker in the press. The present Archbishop much desires it, as he told me lately, and added that he was Parker's scholar, meaning that he enjoyed the scholarship (one of them) which he founded in Bennet College. I have made use of your notes you once sent me, concerning Grindall's birth-place: I have presumed to mention you my author in the margin. I believe you go upon good ground, because Bishop Nicolson (who calls Grindall his countryman, in a letter of his to Dr. Kennet) saith that he was certainly born in the village of St. Beghs. That Bishop is very angry with Dr. Sacheverel for abusing his countryman; and I perceive had been persuading the said Dr. Kennet to undertake to write something in his vindication: and in order to that had supplied him with some historical matters, which he communicated unto me. The book will be finished next week, and so will meet with the Trial of Dr. Sacheverell which they say will come out about the same time. I hope this, my work, will be acceptable to you, and such inquirers as you after the state of our excellent Reformation, and the holy men that were employed in it.

"Sir, though I love autographs as well as Mr. Thoresby, yet I cannot deny so good a friend, nor refuse to contribute to such a repository as yours, and therefore I will make you a present of the hands, not only of your countrymen Guest and Bentham (for Bains I have not), but also Bishop Jewel, and likewise of Parker, Grindal, Cox, Barclay, Skory, Sandys, Menick, Bolingham, Young, Davies, Barckley: all Queen Elizabeth's first Bishops; who all subscribed their names in two parchments, when they took the Oath of Supremacy, and swore their homage to the Queen. And as soon as I may know of a safe opportunity, I will send those parchments to you; and another little book, entitled, a True character of Bishop Grindall



"Where you inquire after Stubbs' Christian name, he that lost his right hand, and wrote himself Scæva, was certainly John, as I find by other letters of his; and therefore you must look for some other man that bore those Prænomena you mention; whether his son, whose godfather might be William Page? I conclude, and am, dear Sir,

"Your very humble servant,  
"J. STRYPE."

Thoresby to Strype:—

"Leedes, May 17, 1710."

"Rev. Sir,

"What I wrote to you about the place of Abp. Grindall's nativity I had from so good hands when I took a tour in that country that it may surely be depended upon. I had lately a letter both from the Bishop and the Dean you mention, and am glad to find others also zealous in his just vindication. That from Dr. Kennet was to thank me for the notice of some, and to desire an account of other augmentations of Vicarages against the next edition of the excellent book, which I have wrote to Sir Henry Goodricke, &c., about.\* It is a just pleasure to me when I can be in the least serviceable to such useful designs, so well performed by persons of moderation and piety. You say you have an original picture of Abp. Parker if you live to publish his memoirs: I suspect it is a slip of the pen for Abp. Abbot's. I think I sent you a transcript of an autograph of his, which argues his pious zeal against Popery, and the reprieve of some Jesuits promoted by Spanish faction. You guess well that I shall be pleased that you are furnished with one of Abp. Grindall, for I have collected, not the hands only, but the heads of eminent persons in Church and State, and have two large volumes of the best prints. I wish your own was well engraved, that I might insert it with other excellent persons. If honest Mr. Wyat be the person immediately concerned in this of Primate Grindall's, I beg of him to send me a duplicate for my collection, as Dr. Hicks did of his, that I may not be under the temptation to deface the book if it be not. If he is not, I know not who

\* Parochial Antiquities.

to trouble but yourself: it may come safe with the noble autographs you mention, being parchments. My dear friend, I must needs own that you are a first rate benefactor to my collection of autographs: this being of so many eminent Bps. and Confessors, I should hardly forbear going in procession to meet them if I knew the certain day of their arrival. You name several eminent persons, I hope there will be two more Parkhurst and Pilkington (of whom your Annals give so great a character) they being contemporaries and taking the oaths about the same time. If you please to direct the parcel for me to be left at Mr. John Cookson's at the Golden Artichokes in Bread Street, to be forwarded by his brother Mr. Wm. Cookson, my cousin, who will be there till the end of the month. I heartily wish you would proceed vigorously in the Life of Abp. Abbot: there will be enough to write that of Bancroft, but too few rightly qualified with candour to do that of his successor, in the subscription to which you may assure yourself of, Dear Sir, your most obliged, humble servant,

RALPH THORESBY."

"Pray whether was Bp. Elmer's picture before your Life of him?"

Strype to Thoresby:—

"Low Leyton, May 23."

"Sir,

"I received your late letter, dated May 17th, and this comes only to accompany the autographs I promised, and now send you; and since you had a mind to have Pilkington and Parkhurst also, I do send you them too, with the overplus of Archbishop Young, and Best, Bishop of Carlisle, contained in four pieces of parchment altogether, and I am pleased they will be a pleasure to you. I am glad we have some good men left that honour the memory of our first Reformers and Bishops, from whose spirit and temper our clergy now-a-days, at least a good many of them, are so much fallen. I do herewithal send you a little book, being a True Character of Archbishop Grindal (if you have not yet seen it), to entertain you, till the history of him come forth, which a week or a fortnight more will despatch. It shall be sent you by Mr. Sprint. I will acquaint Mr. Wyat

of what you write of the account betwixt you, though he, by some accident, be not the printer of this book, but one Mr. Hartley, in Fleet Street. When I come to Leeds, it shall be one of your entertainments of me, to show me your volumes of the faces of famous men. Bishop Elmer's picture faces the Title-Page of his life: it is a very reverend appearance, and drawn excellently well by White, deceased, from an original of him. I know you have a mind to it; I will try if I can obtain one for you from Mr. Aylmer, the bookseller, who derives himself in a direct line from him, and printed the Life. Ah! Sir, Archbishop Abbot is out of my reach. If I attempt the lives of any more Archbishops it must be Whitgift, Queen Elizabeth's last Archbishop; and if I live to finish that, then I may well say, Domine nunc dimittis. I esteem Abbot as much as you; but I hope his memory and good deserts will not be lost.

"I wish you could tell me more particularly what reasons are assigned to evince that Grindal was not born at St. Beghs. Do you know of any namesakes, or relations of his, now in that place?

"I will take care to send you a picture of Grindal; and thus leaving you under the blessing of God, I make an end for this time, being, Sir,

"Your very humble Servant,  
"J. STRYPE."

"Sir,

"I think it convenient to send this letter before the autographs come, which, I understand, will not be till a fortnight or more. I will leave them at Mr. Cookson's. I write this postscript at Mr. Wyat's, who presents you his service, and will ere long send you his account."

"J. S."

Thoresby to Strype:—

"Leedes, 27 May 1710."

"Rev. Sir,

"The last post brought me yours of the 23rd of this instant, wherein you desire me to tell you more particularly what reasons are assigned to evince that Abp. Grindall was not born

at St. Beghs? In answer to which I shall transcribe what I received from a learned, ingenious and pious gentlemen, Wm. Gilpin, Esq., who lives within a mile of the place of that pious Bp's. nativity, and showed it me when I took a tour in those parts, An. 1694; and who in answer to my queries obliged me with a Letter dated from Whitehaven 12 Dec. 1694."

Here Thoresby inserts a transcript from this letter, a portion of which he had communicated to Strype three years before.\* He then continues,—

"Thus I have given you a faithful transcript of my friend's letter relating to this matter. He is a worthy person, of the family of the famous Bernard Gilpin, an eminent lawyer, and steward (as I remember) to Sir John Lowther; so that the law part is, I fear, too true; though whether it may be proper to publish it, because, perhaps, the college may have more to say in their own defence than I know of, I know not. I am obliged to you for the additional autographs, with the character of that pious Bp. (which I never saw), and his, and Bp. Aylmer's pictures.

"I should be not a little glad to see you at Leeds, and show you the collections of heads, but fear you give this hint only to amuse and please me: you would find your own name, with the particulars of all the Autographs you have favoured me with, and which, if I live, shall be publicly acknowledged by

"Dear Sir,

"Your obliged humble Servant,

"RALPH THORESBY."

Strype to Thoresby:—

"Low Leyton, June 22, 1710."

"Sir,

"I hope before this you have received my letter, and the autographs and papers enclosed. I now give you notice that the Life of Archbishop Grindall is printed; and your book, bound, shall be sent to you by Mr. Sprint, on the first opportunity. Mr. Hartley hath the luck to have all the subscribers (though Mr. Wyat hath his share in the rest of the copy). The said Mr. Hartley sets the price of the book to each subscriber, in

\* *Ante*, page 123.

sheets at 8s. 7d.; binding and titling 3s.; that is 11s. 7d. in all.

I am pelted at already in print for my book, in a sixpenny pamphlet, entitled *Memorials of Bishop Grindal*, where I am called an appendix-monger; that the accounts given of his birth and parentage are below the dignity of an historian, and of no use but for the author to fill up the empty spaces of his volume; that in all that is said of him from first to last, were few occurrences that he thought fit to be revived; that he could heartily have wished he had continued in silence and oblivion; and that indeed the whole book seemed to him but one compendious trifle; and such like expressions: besides a few more of these kind censures of me and the Archbishop, that which makes the bulk of the book is two transcripts out of Fuller's History, viz., the Archbishop's letter to the Queen, where she required him to put down the Prophecies;\* and the other, the Petition of the Convocation to the Queen to take off his suspension. Both which the man would turn to the derogation of the good Archbishop; but one would admire how any could do it, but a blind bigoted zealot. That letter in Fuller is infinitely full of faults and mistakes, interpolations and omissions: but I have restored that admirable letter from an original, which the Archbishop himself sent to his great and sure friend, the Lord Treasurer Burghley, and hath that Lord's own hand endorsed on the back side of it: which letter, I am sure, when you (and any impartial man) reads, you cannot but love and reverence the writer, and think him an apostolical Bishop. The Archbishop's Life is mightily bought up, and I hope the reading of it will do a great deal of good, both by showing the good temper and spirit of the true Church of England, and by making it appear how our men that talk so much for the Church of England do vary from it, as it stood in those best (and I may say primitive) days of it.

"I hope we shall now, in a short time, proceed to Archbishop Parker, which is much called for.

"I am, dear Sir,

"Your very humble Servant,

"J. STRYPE."

\* Prophesying, or preachings.

Thoresby to Strype:—

“Leeds, 27 June 1710

“Rev. Sir,

I have waited some time for a private hand to send monies for Abp. Grindal's Life, which will now be paid by Alderman Milner to Mr. Wyat. I take the same opportunity to thank you for his character (but you say not whether you was the Author of it),\* but especially for the valuable subscriptions of so many of the first set of Queen Elizabeth's Bishops. I hope you will please to send a duplicate of the picture, and now engage the press vigorously for Abp. Parker. I am almost at an end of my Topography, and desire your friendly assistance for advice how to agree with the bookseller for the copy; what a copper plate will cost engraving for a Folio or Svo., and who is to be at the charge of it: what sum of money or number of books may be allowed the Author for his cost and pains: what number of subscriptions the undertaker may expect: what the figure of my Predecessor's monument at Hackney would cost drawing and engraving the bigness of an Svo page (for the inscription might be added in the common character).† And now I am upon the subject, let me beg of you to oblige the World with your picture. I want to see it when I converse with the original. Pray let it be added to Abp. Parker's Life. The pamphlet you mention is not worth your notice. I am glad to find they cannot charge you with mistakes or falsities. *Magna est Veritas et praevalabit.* May you live to publish many more of your excellent and useful works, and continue your respects to me, and whenever you meet with any loose coins among your autographs to add to your benefactions to

“Dear Sir,

“Your most obliged humble Servant,

“RALPH THORESBY.”

\* See letter of May 23rd.

† Thoresby had made similar inquiries of the Rev. Thos. Baker, the Cambridge man whom Strype in his letter of the 4th of August, 1709 wished to have the use of Dr. Sampson's papers (*Ante*, page 155). Mr. Baker, replying to Thoresby, 29 June 1710, said,—“I am glad to hear you make such inquiries: I am in hopes from thence you have such designs of your own, which, I doubt not, will be very acceptable to the public.”

On the 10th. of August 1710 Thoresby says in his Diary,—  
“Finished the perusal of good Mr. Strype’s History of the Life of the excellent Archbishop Grindall, an admirably pious and most excellent Bishop, notwithstanding some late invidious reflections upon him as a false brother.” Perhaps Alderman Milner, who took the money for it, brought back the book.

Strype to Thoresby :—

“Low Leyton, Sept. 15, 1710.”

“Sir,

“I have one of your’s lying by me, but requiring, as I thought, no speedy answer, and other things lying upon my hands I have omitted to answer it till now. I am glad to hear your Topography is so near a conclusion; I am sure it will be a very acceptable book to the curious sort of learned in these parts, as well as in those more northern. I shall be glad to be a subscriber, and will use my interest for subscriptions, though my acquaintance is but small.

“I know not what method to propose to you in your dealing with a bookseller, for I am not very crafty in it myself. They commonly consider the number of sheets, and thereby compute the charge in paper and printing; and then expect competent gain for their own pains, and offer their reward to the author for his copy proportionable. Some are so honest as to tell you particularly the expenses; and then leave it to the owner of the copy to make his demands. If they have the encouragement of 100 or 150 subscriptions, they will venture to print. If they foresee they may vend 750, they will advance the authors reward. But in printing but 500 they say they make but little advantage. Some authors will be at the whole charge themselves, and allow a bookseller a consideration for selling them. I mention these things, but the best way is to talk with them yourself.

“The cut of the monument of Thoresby at Hackney, in 8vo. may cost 5*l*. perhaps less. The taking a sketch of it from the place, for the engraver, must cost something too. I gave 30*s*. for drawing the head of Archbishop Grindal for the engraver.”

Here Strype draws the attention of his correspondent to the mention of a seat and estate in Norfolk, the property of a Thoresby, in Sir Henry Spelman's *Icenia*. He then proceeds,—

"Sir, as soon as any opportunity or convenience offers, I will send you the pictures of Archbishop Grindal, Sir John Cheek, and Captain Robert Knox, eminent for his captivity twenty years in Zeilon,\* and his escape thence, and the history he wrote of that island, and the King thereof; and who is my near Kinsman, yet alive. I will send you a few more autographs, and a few more proposals for Archbishop Parker's Life, now employing from presses. We shall have a good effigy of him; but of myself (which your good-will makes you move to me) I cannot incline to it: at least as yet. The character of Archbishop Grindal which I sent you was my doing. I could not forbear to publish something in his vindication for the present (till some larger account of his life might be given) against those base expressions that every one read of him in that unhappy sermon preached at St. Paul's. And thus I conclude, with all respects, being, Sir,

"Your most humble Servant,

"JOHN STRYPE."

Thoresby to Strype:—

"Leedes 16 Oct. 1710."

"Rev. Sir,

"I received your kind letter, and am thankful for your advice about my M.S. topography, but am now half dead, having buried the only dear friend with whom I consulted about these affairs, our late excellent Recorder, Richard Thornton, Esq., a most pious, learned and ingenious gentleman, and the most universally knowing I had the happiness to be acquainted with in these parts. As to the pictures you so kindly tender me of Abp. Grindall (but perhaps you mean Parker), and Capt. Knox, I have them before of your own gift, and Sir John Cheek of Mr. Wyatt's; and I would never be more troublesome to my good friends than I needs must to complete my collection: but you published also Bp. Aylmer's and Sir Thos. Smith's memoirs, and theirs I yet want. As to autographs, you cannot miss,

\* Ceylon.



because I sent you a list of what you gave me. I am glad the famous Capt. Knox is your Kinsman, for then I hope one of his may be spared; and as to others, what you can best part with (that is of any value), will be acceptable, for I shall not presume to prescribe to so generous and kind a friend: only, if you have several of Kath. Parr's, I should be glad of one, because she comes within my history, being wife of the Lord Latimer, whose pedigree is to be inserted at Coit Beeston in this parish.\* I should be glad to see your own effigies in print, but will not urge it too much; though you may assure yourself your absent friends, who cannot enjoy the original, would be pleased to see the copy. I shall be most willing (you may always assure yourself) to do you the utmost service that is possible: but this wretched ferment still continues," &c.; the remainder of this passage, upon general and local politics, has already been given at pages 36 and 37. The letter concludes,—

"But to haste to a more pleasing subject. His lordship" [Nicholson, Bishop of Carlisle] "is prevailed with to reprint the several parts of his Historical Library, and continue them to the Union with the title of the British, &c. He communicates this notice because he flatters me, or at best compliments me, that he looks for no greater helps from any one hand, than from one who is both his and your most obliged humble servant

"RALPH THORESBY." †

"I will prevail with Mr. Johnson, who is for London on Wednesday, to call at Mr. Wyatt's, to bring any little parcel that is directed for me. Pray, whose memoirs shall we hope for next from your excellent pen?"

\* See *Ducatus Leodiensis*, under Cat. Beeston. The Manor formerly belonged to the Latimers; and Thoresby had a further inducement to insert their Pedigree. The first Duke of Leeds was the son of Anne, great grand-daughter of the late Lord Latimer, the son of Katharine Parr by her first husband. Hence Viscount Latimer was one of the titles conferred upon the Duke, when he was first raised to the peerage, as Viscount Latimer of Danby and Baron Osborne of Kiveton, Co. York.

† Bishop Nicholson's letter, of the 9th October, is in the published correspondence. He wrote,—“You will not believe that I flatter you (I am sure I do not intend it) when I tell you that I look for no greater helps from any one hand than I hope for from yours.

It appears that Strype replied in little more than a week, sending Katherine Parr's autograph; but the correspondence on his side is here wanting. On the 6th of December 1710 Thoresby again wrote from Leeds:—

“Rev. Sir,

“Yours of 25 Oct<sup>r</sup> was a long time upon its journey, but arrived safe at last; my poor friend, the bearer, being put sore about in his affairs by some High-Flyers, who had formerly assisted him but would not own him in the present ferment, which is not yet allayed in these parts. A gentleman of £400 per annum was barbarously slain near Hull, for arguing for the Low Church: a gentleman and his comrade are sent for it to York Castle this week.

“I thank you kindly for the eight original letters, but pray whether is the whole of that in Q. Kath. Parr's writing, or only the K. P. at the end of the subscription of Kateryn the Queene? I shall take care to do you justice as to that mistaken passage relating to Abp. Cranmer's memoirs; and am glad for your sake that my Ld. Bp. has desired my assistance in that affair. That Rt. Rev. Author is in the same predicament himself, as he tells me in his last letter that all Low Churchmen are, in the esteem of Furiosos; who have so effectually served themselves with the name of the church, for which others have as true a zeal, tho' they will scarce allow them to be of it. When you print proposals for your Ecclesiastical Memoirs I will do you all the service I can in these parts. I was in great hopes Mr. Bacon's letter had been of the Father, having one of the Son's, when Lord Verulam, from another friend, but never saw one of the old gentleman's.

“Sir,

“Your very humble Servant,

“RALPH THORESBY.”

In the Cole M.S.S. there is mention of one more letter from Thoresby to Strype at this period. It was written three days after Thoresby's return from York Assizes in July 1711; and after saying that so far as he had read he was much pleased with the Life of Archbishop Parker, he proceeded,—

"This last week I was extremely happy to converse with his namesake the Lord Chief Justice, whose motto is in my travelling Album. I will add, believing it will be grateful to you, I desire you will favour me with the Abp's. picture for my collection of heads, and transmit it to our common friend Mr. Le Neve, from whom I can receive it among some parchments relating to our family."

Thoresby had recently been in correspondence with Le Neve about his pedigree and arms. The above letter was written, too, while the monument to his Father, for the Parish Church, was in hand; and he asked Strype to look if the Thoresby Crest, a Lion rampant, on the Hackney monument, held a battle-axe in its paws, or not? According to the engraving in the *Ducatus* it had not; but the upper corners of the Leeds monument were surmounted by Lions rampant, between whose paws were placed battle-axes of some length.

In the Correspondence published by Mr. Hunter, there is another of Strype's letters, there ascribed to the year 1711, though it is only dated "Low Leyton, Sept. 27."\* Mr. Strype acknowledged the receipt of a letter which Thoresby had written a fortnight previously, and apparently replies to some inquiries made in it. He sent seven more autographs; and explained that, to meet a public demand, several papers omitted from the Appendix to his "Annals" had been printed in six sheets, which were to be had at Mr. Wyat's for a shilling; and that at his own cost he had had two additional sheets printed, for his own use,—

"And to bestow them privately upon some of my good friends, that value such original pieces; one whereof I send you herewithal."

The letter concludes:—

"I am sorry you should have two of the Annals lying upon your hands; it was not fairly done: but I believe they may

\* The original is among those now possessed by Mr. Wurtzburgh.

be no burden to you, for the impression is now near gone off, and the bookseller will sell no more but at a higher price. Seven were desired by a Clergyman of Dublin, in a letter he wrote to me, but Mr. Wyat would not part with them. I believe he would take yours if you desired it. I send this and the enclosed, according to your direction: and so I leave you under God's protection and blessing, being, Sir,

"Your very humble Servant,

"JOH. STRYPE."

The above is the last letter given by Mr. Hunter prior to the year in which the *Ducatus* was published, 1715; and there is a similar break in the Cole M.S.S.; but in the 9th volume of Nichol's Literary Anecdotes there is the following letter from Thoresby to Peter Le Neve:—

"For the honoured Peter Le Neve, Esq., Norroy, King of Arms, at the College of Arms, near St. Paul's Church."

"Leedes, Oct. 27, 1711."

"Honoured Sir,

"Tis an age since I heard from you. I begin to suspect that, paying for the letters here, the postboy destroys them for the money; so I shall for once try the other method with this, which comes to acquaint you that, having lately received a very ingenious Letter from Lady Bland (Sir John being indisposed) I was requested to send a country painter to Kippax Park, to draw the Arms in the windows; but I am writ to by my Lady, that it would be more authentic and honourable to have it from the Herald's Office, where I had seen the paternal coat with all the quarterings in the last Visitation; and particularly recommended you to her Ladyship as a gentleman most obliging and most proper to be applied to, as Norroy, &c.; which I hope will be no disadvantage, she being an ingenious lady, and having a due relish in these matters. Sir John (if not gone to the Bath) resides at present at Kensington."

The Blands had been settled at Kippax from the reign of Elizabeth; and in the *Ducatus* Thoresby says of the above

Sir John Bland, Bart., M.P. for Pontefract,\* who was born shortly after the Restoration, that he had been "longer Member of Parliament than perhaps any of his age in England." His wife, Ann, was daughter and heiress of Sir Edward Moseley, of Hulm, Lancashire. It is nearly two years after the date of the above letter before the first, and only, mention of the Blands in Thoresby's Diary occurs:—

"17 July, 1713.—Morning, read and wrote till nine, when our good Vicar and I went to Kippax Park, where most kindly received by the ingenious and virtuous Lady Bland. After dinner her ladyship showed me the gallery, where are the pictures of the Kings of England, from William I to Queen Elizabeth, in whose time the house was built; from the turret there is a pleasant prospect of the adjacent country: After I had entered some late alterations in the family in the printed pedigree, we returned, &c."

The last sentence refers to the then printing *Ducatus*, in which work Thoresby states that he had copied the Bland Pedigree from the M.S. Visitation of Yorkshire in the College of Arms, London.

The concluding part of Thoresby's letter to Le Neve is characteristic. Reverting to his claim to bear the Arms of the Sykes's over his own, upon an Escutcheon of Pretence, he urges the right of his wife's family to their alleged Coat, and, in amusing combination, the difficulty of extracting money from any of them in support of it:—

"Shall I take this opportunity to renew my request for the finishing of my own affair, which you wrote in August was determined by the Chapter: since then I have writ twice to you (before this), and cannot prevail for an answer. Mr. Cookson at the Golden Artichoke in Bread Street will pay the

\* *Ante*, Note, page 36.

£1 13 6, when you will be so kind as to send the parchments thither. I wish the Scocheon of Pretence might be admitted. I observe that the Report made to the Chapter calls it only *doubtful* at worst; and therefore 'proof should be made before it were allowed.' If there were any hope that the family would be at charge to obtain a formal confirmation, I would not urge it; but there is not an heir male but one, and he insolvent, and has no children at all; and the females either regard no such matters, or acquiesce in prescription. Affection to my dear wife prompts me to solicit it; and I would run the hazard of depositing a guinea or two, and getting it as I could among the women (for my own purse will not do it), to have it honestly determined for them. I believe in my conscience they have an undoubted right to the Coat, and that I could prove it before the nicest judge, partly from M.S. in your own College (particularly that in the dark closet); and I would be bound to bring you the ancient gold signet of my great-grandfather Sykes, or send you the impression of it, if that would do, with attestations that it was used in (and has been continued by the descendants ever since) King Charles the First's time; \* and I think it would be better to accept of two guineas (or perhaps I could collect three among them with a great deal of pains) than let the whole fall; and if I drop, there will never be a penny got upon that account. Pray, Good Sir, oblige me with an answer, who am, dear Sir,

“Your very humble Servant,

“RALPH THORESBY.”

\* Vol. I. page 246.

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## The Ducatus Published.

FRIENDLY ADVICE—IN LONDON—RETURN WITH MR. BOULTER—PROGRESS OF THE DUCATUS—BOWYER'S PRINTING OFFICE BURNED—LETTER TO S. GALE—LEEDS PARISH CHURCH—GENERAL ELECTION—DEATH OF ARCHBISHOP SHARP—AGAIN IN LONDON—IN CAMBRIDGE—RETURN TO LONDON—DEATH OF QUEEN ANNE—SUBSCRIBERS TO THE DUCATUS.

THORESBY'S design of a local history having been communicated to his literary friends, they urged its accomplishment. It appears that after submitting his M.S. to Dean Hickee, and speaking of it with Dr. Gibson, when in London at the beginning of the year 1709, he left it with Nicholson, Bishop of Carlisle, who was also in town at that time. The Bishop had already announced in his "Historical Library,"—"The Parish of Leeds will shortly be described, and have its antiquities published, by my ingenious and industrious friend, Mr. R. Thoresby." The month after Thoresby's return home, Bishop Nicholson wrote to him from Westminster,—

"I have, with great satisfaction, read over your Topographical History of Leeds; and (if it signifies anything to tell you so) I am heartily of Dr. Hickee's opinion, that your labours very well deserve both encouragement and commendation. Go on, Sir, by all means; make the work as complete as you can, and never torment yourself with aiming at perfection in this life."

Within the same month Dr. Gibson wrote:—

"Lambeth, March 24, 1709."

"Dear Sir,

"My Lord Bishop of Carlisle having first had the perusal of your papers, it came to my turn the later; but now I have looked them over and considered them, and, according to the

best judgement I am able to make, the performance, so far, is exceeding well, and the work much more instructive and entertaining to all sorts of persons than could be expected in a local history of so narrow a compass as that you have confined yourself to. I discharge my promise of telling you my sincere thoughts, when I add that, in my opinion, the speedy publication of it will be greatly for the benefit of the public, and the honour of the Author. I say speedy, and beg leave to repeat it; both because I plainly see, from this specimen, that you have plentiful materials for the other parts, and because I am pretty sure it will never be published, if you give way to that endless itch of collecting more, which will be as little satisfied seven years hence, as it is now; and therefore, if I may be allowed to prescribe for that disease, my opinion is, that you not only look after no more, but shut up, and admit no more, turning your thoughts wholly to composing. The post waits, but if the present prescription does not work to effect, you must have it frequently repeated by him, who is, with great sincerity,

“Dear Sir,

“Your truly affectionate servant,

“EDMUND GIBSON.”

Roger Gale, son of Thoresby's former friend Dean Gale of York,\* wrote a month later,—

“I am much rejoiced to hear of the speedy publication of your papers, and heartily wish you soon and well out of the press, with better luck than I have had; for though I used all care imaginable, yet Antoninus must show his face with too many faults, occasioned by the printer's perverseness and negligence.”

This was immediately followed by a second letter from the Bishop of Carlisle, still at Westminster, in which he said,—

“Dr. Gibson can assure you that I am perfectly of his opinion, in relation to your Topographical Account of the

\* Vol. I, page 358.



Parish of Leeds. We both think it ought to be forthwith published; as what contains a great many surprising and valuable discoveries, and such as all our antiquaries (who have a due relish of those matters) will highly applaud, and thankfully acknowledge. I am glad to hear that we have the concurrent voice of so good a judge as your worthy Recorder."

The next letter we have upon the subject is from Dr. Gibson. During the Spring of this year, preliminaries for a Treaty of Peace had been arranged between De Torcy, the French Minister, and the Allies; but in the end they were rejected by Louis XIV., after all people, according to Burnet, had "looked upon the Peace to be as good as made." The war recommenced; but what, it may be asked, had the King of France to do with Thoresby's History? Dr. Gibson's letter answers the question:—

"Lambeth, June 14, 1709."

"Dear Sir,

"While the treaty of peace was depending, I could not tell what to say to the contents of your last letter; because, of late, very little paper has been imported, upon a prospect of peace; and all printing, except of pamphlets, is at a stand for the present. The thoughts of peace being now over, the question is, whether you will think fit to put your work to press, under the present inconvenience of a scarcity and dearth of paper, or will wait till it pleases God to open a way to peace, and with that a trade to France. This, by all the circumstances, seems to be near, and, if I may advise you, it will be the best way to wait for it, and in the mean time to be making preparations for the press.

"Whether it is most advisable to print it at your own charge, or put it into the hands of a bookseller, will wholly depend upon the number of subscriptions you foresee. As to the charge, when I know the number of sheets and plates, I can get it exactly calculated for you; but at present the printer need not be put to that trouble, if you resolve to

wait for paper from France, which will very much lower the charge, and be an encouragement to undertake it at your own expense, and make the best of it for your own use. How far this may be advisable, may be easily seen (as I said) by comparing the charges of printing with the number of subscriptions; in both which you shall have all the assistance I can give you; and that presently, if you resolve upon an impression during the war, which I take it for granted you do not, the prospect of peace being so near. In the mean time, I hope you will not slacken your preparations for the press, by composing, I mean, and not by collecting; against which, you know, I have entered my protestation a good while since.

“I am ever, Sir,

“Your affectionate and faithful servant,

“EDM. GIBSON.”

In the second of Bishop Nicholson's letters just quoted from, and dated 26 April 1709, he intimates his intention, being about to quit London, of paying “a running visit” to Thoresby in Leeds along with Archdeacon Pearson, about the middle of the following week; which accords with Thoresby's Diary for the 5th of May:—“Had the honour of a visit from the Bishop of Carlisle and Mr. Archdeacon Pearson; had the advantage of his instructive converse.” After the Bishop's return to his Episcopal residence, Rose Castle near Carlisle, he again wrote:—

“Rose, June 15, 1709.”

“Dear Sir,

“My neighbour (Mr. Clarke) gives me an opportunity of returning my hearty thanks for your last favours at Leeds; which ought to have been more early acknowledged, had not my head (since my return) been unmannerly engaged in matters here within doors. To show you that Leeds was not wholly out of my thoughts, I must now acquaint you that I requested Mr. Elstob's helping forward your instructive labours, in their

coming abroad;\* and he has allowed me to tell you, that (as soon as you please) he will thankfully accept the favour of being corrector to the press, as soon as you shall allow your papers to go there. Surely, you will immediately give him your commission; since both Mr. Thornton at your elbow, and Dr. Hickes and Dr. Gibson at a distance, are such earnest persuaders to the doing right to the World and yourself. Such authorities as these would be irresistible with me, and will always command (were my inclinations less pliant than they are) the throwing in of my vote with them."

About three months after this came another letter from Dr. Gibson:—

"Lambeth, Sept. 24, 1709."

"Dear Sir,

"I am got home again, and, I thank God, safe and well, after a residence of almost ten weeks at Chichester, whither I carried your History of Leeds for part of my entertainment there. You will readily believe me when I say, what I have already said, that I should much rejoice to see it made public; but yet I think, upon the whole, it would be the best way to wait for the peace, when paper will be cheaper, and, we may hope, money for subscriptions a little more plentiful. Your letter was sent me to Chichester, but I had no way of conveying the papers with safety to the place you directed; and so, being loth to run any hazards where so valuable a treasure was at stake, I chose rather to keep them out of your hands some time longer.

"When you send your direction where and to whom they shall be delivered, you shall be punctually obeyed by, Sir,

"Your very affectionate Servant,

"EDMUND GIBSON."

\* *Ante*, page 110. His sister had written to Thoresby on the 6th of May,—  
 "I am quite ashamed that I have not much sooner returned my hearty thanks for the great trouble you have given yourself, in procuring so noble a number of encouragers to my work . . . My brother joins me in service to you. He has many things to do if he had leisure and encouragement; King Alfred's translation of Orosius he has ready for the Press," &c.

The Rev. William Elstob confirmed Bishop Nicholson's promise of his assistance :—

“London-Stone, Oct. 14, 1709.”

“Kind Sir,

“My sister has sent you your just number of subscriptions, and one over, bound, which she desires you to accept as an acknowledgement of your great readiness to promote her work.\* My Lord Bishop of Carlisle wrote me word some time ago, that some papers of yours were in Dr. Gibson's hands relating to the antiquities of Leeds. He was then pleased to desire I would assist in correcting or revising the sheets when you print. You may be assured I shall be glad of any opportunity of serving so good friends.

“I am, Sir,

“Your most obliged humble servant,

“WM. ELSTOB.”

Dr. Gibson made a tender of similar services three weeks afterward :—

“Lambeth, Nov. 3, 1709.”

“DEAR SIR,

“I hope your papers are come safe to hand long ere this having been delivered punctually according to your directions. When peace comes, and you enter upon the thoughts of printing, you need be in no concern about supervising the press, in case you shall think fit to entrust that article to my care, who have been a little accustomed to that sort of work ; which I mention now, not only because I shall then be heartily ready to do it, but also to give me some sort of colour to put a present trouble upon you, over and above what you have already taken. I know you have examined the coins in Camden with great nicety, and can tell at one view, what we have and what we want. The favour, then, that I desire is, that you will review Mr. Walker's coins and notes ; and add by themselves a table or

\* Diary, 5 January 1710 :—“Finished the perusal of the ingenious Mrs. Elizabeth Elstob's Version of the Saxon Homily, with large preface and curious notes, the learned lady's present.

two (according as the number shall rise) of such as he omitted or have since been discovered, with your own annotations upon them, in order to be added in the new edition. This, I know, you can do with greater ease, advantage and exactness, than any man in England; and therefore, to be plain, it is a request wherein I will not be denied; &c."

This was not calculated to forward Thoresby in his own work; but on the 8th of December Dr. Hickes wrote,—“I have delivered all your papers to Mr. Elstob, and should be glad to hear you were ready for the press.”

Thoresby promptly complied with Dr. Gibson's urgent request:—

11 November 1709,—“Within perusing Saxon Coins to oblige Dr. Gibson (now Bishop of London) in order to a more correct edition of Camden's *Britannia*,” and on the 8th of January 1709-10, Gibson wrote a letter of thanks, and apologies for seeming neglect in not having done so earlier, concluding:—

“In hopes that you will forgive all neglect of duty on my part, and that, as soon as ever the war is at an end, you will give me an opportunity to acknowledge the many troubles you are so kind to take at my request, by putting your *Antiquities* to the press, and giving me the care thereof in your absence.

“I remain, &c.”

The Elstobs also again proffered assistance,—

“If, in the printing of yours, or in anything else, my brother or I can be any way serviceable, you may command our best assistance. The copper-plates you enquired about cannot be printed off without the rolling-press.”

“When shall we see,” asked Bishop Nicholson on the 15th of April 1710, “the *Parochial Antiquities of Leeds*? If the censure of vanity affrights you from giving us the bearings in the gallery at Medley-Hall, I am afraid the same dull spirit of modesty will retard your other good designs. Despise, my good

friend, all the unjust censures of unreasonable and malicious men, and go on briskly with what you are satisfied (in your own conscience) will tend to the honour and service of your own family, and your neighbourhood."

On the 2nd of June 1710 Roger Gale wrote to Thoresby from Scruton giving account of two curious urns recently found at St. Alban's. One was globular, more than six feet in circumference, made of fine reddish clay, very smooth externally and very thin, with a filleting round the middle and inscribed Marcus Aurelius IIII. The other, of red clay but thicker, was cylindrical, about eighteen inches long; and under some ashes in a cavity at the bottom were six or seven coins, only two of them legible. One of these was of Gallienus; the other Claudius, Gale supposed Claudius Gothicus. He inserted drawings of the urns, taken by his brother Samuel from them, and then concluded his letter:—

"Since my return from London, it has pleased God to increase my family with a son, that is very likely to live, and last Tuesday we christened him by the names of both his Godfathers, Roger Henry. I wish you S<sup>r</sup> all success and happiness in your affairs and studies, and shall be glad to hear we are likely to be soon entertained with the antiquities of your native country, and that you are in good health.

"I am,

"Your most obliged friend and humble Servant,

"R. GALE."

"To Mr. Thoresby at his house in Leeds, free R. Gale."

"By York bag."\*

On the 13th of June Roger Gale again wrote:—

"Scruton,† June 13, 1710."

"Sir,

The contents of your last have made me not a little con-

\* From the M.S.S. of J. H. Wurtzburg.

† A magnificent Library at Scruton collected by the Gales, was sold in 1755 to Mr. Osborne, bookseller in London. Wilson M.S.S., *North Riding Genealogies*.

cerned, since I find by them that you are under some diffidence about publishing your observations on the antiquities of your native country. I cannot question the value of them, by reason of my knowledge of the author's abilities, as well as the earnest solicitations of those great judges you mention, for their seeing the light, with whom, therefore, I must heartily join in begging of you not to suffer your labours to be lost, as in all probability they will, if you do not take care to bring them into the world yourself. I can by no means, however, advise you to run the hazard of printing this work at your own charges; for beside the demand of a great sum of money for paper, printing, &c., which you must part with long before you can hope for any return of advantage, if your book should chance to sell slowly, you would be a very great loser by it. This, indeed, might be obviated by publishing proposals for a subscription, one of which should be, that half the money should be paid down at the time of subscribing: and I should not think it very difficult for your friends to procure a sufficient number to set the press at work, and buy paper too. A specimen and proposals might be printed off, and some bookseller at London entrusted with it, to disperse it to Oxford, Cambridge and other places, where encouragement might be expected. By that means you might see in a little time if you had encouragement enough to go on with it that way: and, if it failed, you might then think of selling the copy to some bookseller, though it would be, certainly, to great disadvantage. Therefore, I should think the best way would be, to try first what the bookseller would give for it; and, if you thought their proposals worth your acceptance, to close with them without undergoing any further trouble or hazard. For my part, I shall be very ready and industrious to promote whatever you resolve upon, either the carrying it on by subscription, or selling the copy to a bookseller, and doubt not when I go again to London to have frequent opportunities of serving you, if the book will be ready by that time for the press; for nothing can be done till it is so far finished, by reason no estimate can be made of the bulk and charge of it."

Dr. Hickee, writing on the 4th of November 1710, promised aid to Thoresby in another form; but qualifying its value by a reference to contemporary politics, which we should scarcely have thought of connecting in any way with Thoresby's Topography:—

"I am very free to give you my testimonial, and approbation of your elaborate work, but without that of the Bishop of Carlisle and Dr. Gibson it will do you, in this new crisis and turn of time, little service, because great numbers of the present uppermost party, to purge themselves from all suspicion of Pretenderism (this is a new word), which their adversaries lay to their charge, think they can never enough undervalue and speak against Nonjurors, and all that they have done for and defence of their, and our common mother, the Church, and the advancement of good learning, contrary to what they used to do. However, if you will send me the title of your book, and a form of such a testimonial as you desire to have, I will send it back to you transcribed in my own hand."

On the 20th of the same month, when about to quit Rose for Westminster, in readiness for the ensuing Session of Parliament, the Bishop of Carlisle renewed his importunity:—

"Among my other engagements, I find myself indebted to you for a third letter of the 28th of last month, wherein you give me an obliging account of the *Securis Lapidea*, and some other antique rarities, lately added to your store.\* You will pardon me, if I freely tell you that I take you to be one of the sorts of this world's misers who are continually heaping up riches, and cannot (or will not) tell who shall gather them.

\* "The *Securis Lapidea*, or rather *Marmorea*, sent me by Stephen Tempest, of Broughton, Esq.," is described by Thoresby in his *Museum Catalogue* as a Mallet's Head of speckled marble, polished. It had been discovered in 1675 in an Urn of 10 inches diameter, "and therewith a Brass lance and a Hone to sharpen it." Thoresby at first classed it with British antiquities: Hearne in a prefix to the 4th volume of Leland, pronounced it Danish.



You have long since amassed together a sufficiency of wealth in the Parochial Antiquities of Leeds, and a man is never the poorer for throwing this kind of treasure about him. Scatter it, Sir, freely amongst your friends, by publishing your book, and, depend upon it, you will lose nothing by their great gains and improvement."

Dr. Hickes wrote again on the 29th of December:—

"It is now two years since you desired me to peruse about forty sheets you had written of the antiquities of your birth-place, Leeds, and the places about it, with which, you may remember, I was well pleased, and desired you to finish and publish them as soon as you could. My curiosity and expectation to hear they are ready for the press, prompt me to enquire of you how far you have proceeded in them, and what you intend to do with them: for though your delay makes me sometimes fear you have laid aside your noble design, yet I am willing to hope it is only plenty of new materials coming in upon you, that makes you so long a finishing. But pray put a speedy end to your work, and retard it no longer, but remember what frail creatures we are, and that if you do not make haste to finish and publish, death may come between you and it."

Dr. Hickes added in a postscript,—

"Sir, I thought it most proper by way of letter for me to give my opinion of your book; and therefore you may print this letter, or an extract of it, with other approbations. But if you had rather have my testimony in any other way than in a letter, you may command it from me."

The next day, the last but one of the year 1710, new style,\* Bishop Nicholson wrote from Westminster in acknowledgement of Thoresby's "emendations" on the "Historical Library," and then proceeded,—

"You still seem to talk at a distance of your publishing your parochial antiquities. As Dr. Hickes, Dr. Gibson and I

\* Dr. Hickes said in his letter of the 29th,—“The season, but much more the friendship I have for you, obligeth me to wish you a very happy new year.”

heartily approved of the undertaking and performance, so (you may be assured) none of us will be backward in giving it all the countenance we can on its appearance abroad."

The death, in the Autumn of 1710, of Thoresby's confidant and helper in the Topography, as in other matters, Mr. Thornton, was well calculated to enforce these repeated appeals of his literary friends; and on the 19th of May 1711, his Diary has the entry,—

"Walked to Berwick-in-Elmet to consult my old friend the Parson, about my M.S., concerning which I have of late received so many letters and solicitous requests from my friends for the publication, that, considering the infirmities which I perceive growing upon me, I cannot but look upon as a memento of my own mortality, and its miscarriage, if not timely prevented.

The termination of the war with France removed the ground for delay alleged by Dr. Gibson; and the main business of Thoresby's visit to London in 1712, when he joined in presenting to the Queen the Address from Leeds on the Treaty of Utrecht, was to commence the printing of his "*Ducatus Leodiensis*." On the 14th of May in that year he left Leeds in company with "Cousin Alderman Cookson;" at Ferry Bridge they joined other travellers, "amongst whom the son of the learned Monsieur Copellus, late Hebrew Professor at Saumur, and now an exile for religion at London," and at Barnby Moor, where they staid for the night, they met with Roger Gale. "We enjoyed ourselves very agreeably in discourse of certain books and their authors," says Thoresby; but even society congenial and pleasant as this had its drawbacks:—

"What I ought to take notice of in this Diary, chiefly designed for my private direction and reproof, is, that all four gentlemen being in one chamber, I was in a manner prevented of private prayer, both evening and morning. The Lord pity and pardon!"

Staying the second night at Stamford and the third at "Bigglesworth," on the 17th they dined at Welling, "were met and civilly treated at Barnet by Mr. Cookson of London," and arriving in London in good time Thoresby took up his quarters with his publisher, Maurice Atkins, in St. Paul's Church Yard, where he found "comfortable accomodations." Mr. Cookson appears to have staid with his brother, for the next morning, Sunday, they called together upon Thoresby, and the three went to St. Paul's. Thoresby dined with Mr. Cookson after service, of which he thus writes,—

"After the Cathedral music, &c. (which would have been full as intelligible and agreeable to my private sentiments if reduced to what is so frequently repeated, 'As in the beginning,' &c.) was concluded, Mr. Cory preached an honest and excellent good sermon, from that of our Saviour's reproof to the Scribes and Pharisees, that even publicans and sinners should enter Heaven rather than they; amongst whose sins he showed that formality, &c., were not the least."

It was on the afternoon of this Sunday, that Thoresby attended service at Dr. Sacheverell's church, St. Mary's Overy. During the three months that he continued in London he maintained his custom of attending daily prayers, generally at St. Paul's, at six in the morning.

Sunday over, Thoresby spent the next two days after his arrival in a round of visits, beginning with a walk to Archbishop Sharp's in Bloomsbury Square, and to Dr. Hiekes in Ormond street, both of whom received him kindly, and both of whom were suffering from the same complaint, the stone. Taking a pair of oars to Lambeth on the Tuesday morning he called upon Dr. Gibson, by whom he was "most courteously entertained;" then,—

"Went with Cousin Cookson to the Temple, to visit cousin Idle, a student there;\* thence to Westminster Hall and to both Houses of Parliament; wearied ourselves in the Court of Requests and lobby; visited Mr. Le Neve in the Court of Exchequer, who showed my friends the noted record Domesday-Book; after dinner, at a cookshop, we returned by coach to Gray's Inn, where treated by our Recorder, cousin Walker."

Parting with Mr. Cookson, Thoresby visited Arthur Collins, the bookseller, near Temple Bar, to whom he gave some aid for the History of Baronets, then in hand.† The next day Thoresby entered upon his work. After receiving a visit from Mr. Gale he had an interview "with the printer, or rather composer of the press, Mr. George James, who prints the votes." He finished the week in company with his host Mr. Atkins, Mr. Dale, of the Herald's office, and Mr. Sturt, the engraver of several of his illustrations.

Although "Cousin Walker" had so recently acquired the Recordship of Leeds, as before related, to Thoresby's displeasure and annoyance, they appear now to have been on good terms. In the Diary for the 2nd of June there is this notable passage:—

"Walked to Westminster Hall to meet our Recorder, Cousin Walker, who kindly accompanied me to his Grace the Duke of Leeds, who (though some persons of quality returned under the notion that the Duke was at his country-seat, at Wimbleton), admitted of us, and entertained us most agreeably, with the relation of many remarkable passages relating to the present state of affairs, as well as what passed some years ago, and particularly, at my request, with that of his wonderful deliverance, when a child, in the Presence Chamber, at the Manor of

\* John Idle, a nephew of Thoresby's sometime housekeeper, "Cousin Susan," the unfortunate Mrs. Stubbs.

† Mr. Collins presented him with a work of his own publishing, an Inquiry into Religion, and the use of Reason in reference to it, anonymous, but written by Sir Richard Cox, Lord Chief Justice of Ireland; he also accommodated Thoresby with a seat in his pew at St. Dunstan's on the following Sunday.

York, when his elder brother and . . . were buried in the ruins of the very next apartment, which was demolished by the sudden fall of a stack of chimneys, blown down at that moment by a storm. After a promise of sending me his pedigree the next week, when this busy one is over (wherein the Queen is to lay before the Parliament the matters relating to the Peace), he dismissed us friendly, with a compliment that it was an honour to himself, not the town of Leeds, that he was dignified with that title, it being the most considerable place (York being appropriated to the Royal Family) for trade, &c., which determined his choice of it."

This interview of Thoresby's with the Duke of Leeds most probably concerned not only the Duke's pedigree, but the intended Dedication of the "Ducatus Leodiensis;" for there is no doubt that had not the Duke's death intervened, to him, and not to his Grandson as it was, the work would have been dedicated. Its appearance in type had now actually begun, for on the following afternoon Thoresby was "at the printer's, Mr. George James, to correct a sheet."

The 6th of June was the day on which Queen Anne visited her Parliament,\* and Thoresby, by the Archbishop of York's assistance, saw her in State upon the Throne in the House of Lords; but on the morning of that day he went "with Mr. Gale and Mr. Dale to the Earl of Oxford's most noble library." While there he made a transcript from a manuscript Visitation, wherewith to collate the Thoresby Pedigree. This we learn from his Diary; and there still exists a scrap of paper, on which, with seven trickings of Arms and other notes, there is this memorandum in Thoresby's handwriting:—

"I collated this pedigree of the *Thoresbys* with a M.S. Visitation of Yorkshire (82. C. 17. pag: 340) in the noble Library of the Earl of Oxford this 6 June 1712, w<sup>ch</sup> begins

\* *Ante*, page 43.

with *Aykefrith*, &c. . . . it adds that Adam the son of Tho' eldest son of Swayne had by his wife the towne of Borewich upon Tees in Cumberl<sup>d</sup>. w<sup>ch</sup> was holden in Cornage & that he gave the desert of St. Andrew to the Abbey of our Lady in Everwick."

This curious relic, associated with a day historically memorable, was among the Wilson M.S.S., and it is endorsed by Wilson,—“A Paper Fragt. by Mr. Thoresby when he drew up his Pedigree.”

And now Thoresby began to experience an Author's troubles. He wrote, the very next day,—“twice or thrice at the printer's (whose neglect is intolerable) yet all in vain.” Within another week he “went with Mr. M. Atkins to Mr. Boyer, the printer's;” and subsequently we have the following notices of his acquaintance with typography:—

“June 13.—Again fretting at the printer's slowness.”

“14.—At the printer's in vain; all day within perusing another manuscript of pedigrees kindly lent me by the King-at-Arms, Mr. Le Neve, save that I went again to the printer's with better success, that I had a sheet most correctly printed (save one Saxon word).”

“16.—Again at the printer's, in Paternoster Row, and Whitefriars, and discoursing Mr. Atkins very earnestly about the unreasonableness of their slow procedure.”

“18.—Morning, retired at five; at church at six; at printer's at seven; so afterwards, and at the other printers in Whitefriars.”

The Whitefriars printer was the well-known William Boyer, in Dogwell Court, whom Thoresby had now at work in addition to George James. On the 20th he says,—

“Corrected a revise sheet; wrote the Duke of Leeds' pedigree: walked (with it) to cousin Walker's, at Westminster Hall; stayed there much of the day, yet to little purpose, his Grace being gone to Wimbledon; was again at the printer's in Whitefriars, and at the engraver's, Mr. Sturt's, in Aldersgate Street,

that was fatigued, yet nothing is done without: found disappointments in both places, for want of paper, orders, &c."

The Engraver Sturt was born in the same year with Thoresby, according to Walpole, who speaks slightly of his performances. He showed skill particularly in minute work, of which Thoresby makes mention in cataloguing this class of his curiosities:—

"A Bond in Court-Hand in one line, and the Conditions in another, writ by the curious pen of Mr. *Robert Jackson*, also of *Leedes*, who engraves well, though infinitely short of that celebrated Artist, and my kind Friend, Mr. *John Sturt*, of *London*, who is famous for his Skill and Dexterity in Graving,—and has, beside many other exquisite Performances, engraved the *Lord's Prayer*, in so small a Compass, that a Silver Halfpenny covers it; and the *Creed* within that of a mill'd Penny; and both of them, with the *Ten Commandments*, the *Magnificat*, the Prayer for the *King and Queen*, the Prayer for the *Royal Family*, the Prayer for *Clergy and People*, the Prayer of *St. Chrysostom*, and the *Blessing*, in the Bigness of the Heads of their Majesties, upon a Medal, 1693."

Sturt prefixed a similar performance to a profusely illustrated edition of the Book of Common Prayer, published in 1717; at the beginning of which he inserted engraved busts of George the First and the Prince and Princess of Wales, with the Lord's Prayer, Creed, Commandments, Prayer for the Royal Family and the 21st Psalm upon that of the King. He had previously executed a St. Matthew's Gospel, with which Thoresby thus winds up his list of the various editions of the Bible in his collection:—

"I shall conclude this Catalogue with two Curiosities, the *Gospel of St Matthew*, admirably engraved in 8vo. by that celebrated Artist Mr. *J. Sturt* of *Lond.* and 'tis great Pity there was not suitable Encouragement to proceed in the rest of the New Testament. To which may be added, *The Passion of our*

*Saviour*, and a Pindaric Ode on the Suffering God (by Mr. Fra. Bragge) engraved by him on 52 Copper-Plates. Don. predicti *Johannis Sturt*."

To revert to the Diary:—

"June 24.—Was both at the printer's and the engraver's; found renewed disappointments;"

"25.—Was encouraged at Mr. Boyer's press, which kept me employed the former part of the day. After, at Mr. James's in vain, and at Mr. Sturt's;"

"26.—At both the printers', and placing the Greek coins till afternoon;"

"27.—Correcting the press for both printers. Was much upon the hurry thereby, and being twice almost as far as Charing Cross, and as often at Gray's Inn about business; and at Ormond Street with Dean Hicks, and thence, with Mr. Vertue, an ingenious artist, viewing his workmanship. Then again at the printer's at Whitefriars."

He was with James the printer next morning, before going to Barnet with the Recorder and the London Mr. Cookson to meet "Cousin Atkinson," Mayor of Leeds, coming to Town for the presentation of the Leeds Address to Queen Anne. On the 30th, after correcting proofs, he "was at both the places, though considerably distant, and at the engraver's, Mr. Sturt's;" and on the 2nd of July he was "at both the printers, correcting the revise sheets till noon," before appearing with his brethren of the Leeds Corporation, and their Address, before the Queen at Kensington.\*

On the previous day, Thoresby had initiated a new work, and a work of importance to his great literary undertaking. It would have been strange if one who had so great a love for "effigies," and who had so urgently appealed to Strype for his, had withheld his own from the *Ducatus Leodiensis*. His inspection

\* *Antc*, page 46.



of the workmanship of George Vertue, the well known engraver of portraits, at this time but twenty-eight years old, and member of a new painting-school under Sir Godfrey Kneller, was preliminary to the engagement of his services; for on the afternoon of the 1st of July 1712, Thoresby was "with Mr. Vertue, sitting for the picture to be engraven."

This was not the first likeness of him taken. A year earlier he sat to one of his numerous "cousins." The son of his grandfather's half-brother Paul, Mr. J. Thoresby of Chester-le-Street, married the sister of Mr. George Lumley, Artist; this being, as we read in one part of the Diary, "the second match into that family, John Thoresby (the younger brother of Christopher, from whom we are descended) marrying Margaret, daughter to the Lord Lumley, in Henry the Seventh's time." And in July 1711,—“Showing collections to Cousin Lumley of York; had his company and Mr. Carpenter's to dinner; after, at his request, sitting for my picture in crayons.” But the earliest mention of a portrait of Ralph Thoresby is on the 12th of March 1703,—“Sent for by Monsieur Parmentier, who obliged me to sit for my picture.”

James Parmentier, born, like the engraver Sturt, in the same year with Thoresby, came to England in 1676. William III sent him to work at Loo Palace, in Holland; but not agreeing with the Surveyor, Marot, he returned to London, and on scarcity of employment went thence into Yorkshire; and it was not until the death of Lagrene in 1721 that he returned to London again.\* At Leeds he painted the staircase of a mansion which Thoresby's relative, John Atkinson, Esq., erected while the *Ducatus* was publishing, in what had been the orchard of the great benefactor of Leeds, John Harrison; “a delicate House,”

\* Walpole; who states that he died, in indifferent circumstances, when about to go to Amsterdam on the invitation of relatives, 2 Dec. 1730. He was buried at St. Paul's, Covent Garden.

says the *Ducatus*,—"that, for the exquisite workmanship of the Stone-work, especially the Dome, and for a painted Stair-Case, excellently performed by Monsr. *Permentier*, &c., exceeds all in Town." Near the same time *Permentier*, who painted an altar-piece for Hull, contributed towards a re-adornment of the Parish Church of Leeds, which *Thoresby* describes in an Addenda to the *Ducatus* in terms characteristic of the writer:—

"The *Parish Church*, which was said before to be an Emblem of the Church Militant, black but comely, does now flourish as a Bride adorned with her Jewels; and though the Altars might be more pompous in times of Popery, we may safely conclude that the entire Church was never so beautiful since its Foundation; this (though at the publick charge) ought to be very much attributed to the prudent Management and Ingenuity of Alderman *Cookson*, who at the Vicar's request accepted of the Warden's Office for that very purpose. The Windows before darkened with fragments of Painted Glass (of which not one Figure remained whole) are now entirely glazed with large Squares, fortified with Iron in place of the more cumbersome Wood Stanchions (to use the local word).\* . . . Monsieur *James Permentier*, a celebrated Artist, who performed some exquisite Paintings for K. *William* at the *Loe*, desirous to express his Gratitude for the Encouragement he had here met with in his Employment, bestowed upon the Church a most noble Specimen of his Art, *viz.* the Giving of the *Law*; the Thunder and Lightning at the rending of the thick clouds, are expressed (in *fresco* upon the Roof) in suitable terror, but qualified by the lovely Aspects of a Choir of Angels and Cherubs, with *Moses* and *Aaron* in the Clouds, &c."

*Permentier's* draught for this notable work became a deposit in *Thoresby's* Museum.†

\* It is singular that *Thoresby* should have considered this to be a local word. Later in the century Dr. Johnson inserted it in his Dictionary, deriving it from the French *estançon*, or *etançon*, a prop.

† In the Minster Library at York there is a portrait by *Permentier*, that of the Rev. Marmaduke Fothergill, a York man, and a Non-juror. He also took a portrait of St. Evremond, an engraving from which, by *Vertue*, is prefixed to the works of St. Evremond, edited by M. De Maizeux.

Permentier's portrait of Thoresby is in size  $20\frac{1}{4}$  inches by  $16\frac{1}{4}$ , and it represents him in a wig of dark brown.\* In the manuscript Catalogue of the Society of Antiquaries it is said that Vertue engraved from it, giving more drapery below. Thoresby's statement that he sat to Vertue militates against this; but two days later he says, "Walked to Mr. Vertue's with the picture," and Permentier's painting may have been to some extent used. A subsequent entry in the Diary makes known to us the cost of the engraved likeness,—“With Mr. Atkins walked to Queen Street, Bloomsbury, to Mr. Vertue's; agreed fully upon the rate of the picture, which Mr. Atkins says is to be eight guineas.” Thomas Wilson, in one of his manuscript notes, says this engraving of Thoresby “is very like the original; when he met with anything pleasing it caused the smirk so well delineated by the ingenious Mr. Vertue.”

On his return from Vertue's upon this occasion he called at “good old Mr. Stretton's,” the former Minister at Mill Hill, his Father's friend and his own, who had died that morning

\* Many who visited the Exhibition held in 1868 at the New Leeds Infirmary may remember it then hanging in the corridor, among the Collection of Yorkshire Worthies, the Society of Antiquaries having lent it for the purpose. It is altogether unlike another portrait, which has been said to be Thoresby's, and which is mentioned in a letter from a Leeds gentleman on the subject of Thoresby's descendants, published in the Gentleman's Magazine for February 1853. This letter states, in speaking of Mr. Frederick Nicholson Settle, descended from a niece of Thoresby's who married a Cloth-Dresser, Jeremiah Nicholson,—“He has an original painting of the Antiquary which was long neglected in the workshop of Jeremiah Nicholson. It is taken in the Aldermanic dress of that time.” It is impossible to reconcile this portrait with either Permentier's or Vertue's; and that it is not Thoresby's is put beyond question by an inscription upon it,—“Æt. 23 A.D. 1689.” Now in the year 1689 Thoresby attained the age of thirty-one; he did not enter the Corporation until 1697; and he never became an Alderman, even if we admit the scarlet drapery in the painting to represent an Aldermanic gown. All that Mr. Settle, who was long known personally to the writer of this work, could say upon the subject was, that in his Family it had always been said,—“It was Thoresby.” Perhaps it had been said to begin with,—“It was Thoresby's,” and the possessive may have been afterward dropped. The age and date afford some clue to the identity of the portrait, and whom it represents would be a rather interesting discovery.

at four o'clock. Thoresby had been to visit him on the evening after arriving in London, and several times subsequently, and found him very weak, evidently near his end.\* On the 7th of July, four days after his death, he was interred at Bunhill Fields; and Thoresby was unable to attend the Funeral,—

“Morning, was at church; was at all the three presses, correcting or hastening them, and directed the Engravers, which took up the former part of the day; after, writing till three, designed to attend the corpse of my good old friend Mr. Stretton to his grave in the burying-place, but was prevented.”

Thoresby, amid all his engagements, proved that he was not unmindful of his old friend's memory. On the Sunday week after the interment he attended “Mr. Stretton's meeting-place,” Haberdashers' Hall, which he found “hung round with black.” The Funeral Sermon was preached by Matthew Henry, who in this year succeeded Dr. Bates as Minister of a Nonconformist congregation at Hackney. Thoresby had many years been in correspondence with this famous Commentator, who not only gave him repeated invitations to Chester, setting forth its antiquities as a temptation, but also expressed his own strong desire to visit Thoresby in Leeds. Nevertheless, it was but little more than a month before the death of Mr. Stretton that they met for the first time.

On the Saturday after the Funeral Sermon, Thoresby wrote,—

“All day within writing, but found the inconvenience I dreaded from the press, not having a line from one house, whence two sheets should have been sent me, and but one from the other. In the evening I walked to Goodman-fields, to Mr. Stretton's, to persuade the printing some memoirs of his late excellent father, and to add his picture from the original, which he seemed inclinable to, and I promised what poor assistance lay in my power.”

\* Mr. Stretton last preached, 4 May 1712.

That day week he took to Mr. Stretton's son the memoirs he "had drawn up of his late excellent father, to be inserted in his Life, shortly to be published with the funeral Sermon by Mr. Henry;" and on Sunday, the 3rd of August, after having heard Mr. Henry preach at Hackney,—

"I had the agreeable converse of Mr. Henry, at his new house, concerning the Memoirs of good Mr. Stretton, he having received those I transmitted to his son; he gave me some autographs, and the famous pen (a sacred relic) wherewith he has writ the Bible over, from the beginning of Leviticus to St. Matthew, with all the volumes of his Annotations, besides three sermons weekly, and letters, Memoirs of Mr. Stretton, and other tracts he has printed, and are ready for the press."

In Mr. Henry's letters to Thoresby, he had several times expressed his willingness to contribute to Thoresby's Collection, could he find anything worth sending; and it is questionable if even ancient Chester could have furnished anything so acceptable as this pen. Thoresby extols it in his Catalogue after the mention of a Porcupine Quill pen, and,—

"Other antique *Pens* over-laid with Silk and Silver, which must all give place to that *venerable Pen*, wherewith the Rev. Mr. *Mat. Henry* writ the far greatest part of his Expositions of the Bible, *viz.* from the Beginning of *Leviticus* to the End of the Old Testament (except one Sheet) which makes four volumes in *Folio*, in a very close small character: With it he wrote also all the Sermons (which were not a few) and other Tracts composed in his own Study, from *Nov.* 1705 to *Aug.* 1712, when I procured it from the pious Author of those excellent Practical Expositions."

It is mentioned a second time in connection with the Folio volumes themselves.

The Funeral Sermon\* was soon afterward published, with this Title-Page:—

“A Sermon preached at Haberdashers’ Hall, July the 13th 1712, on the occasion of the Death of the Reverend Mr. Richard Stretton, M.A. and Minister of the Gospel. Who dy’d July the 3d. Aged Eighty. By Matthew Henry, Minister of the Gospel. To which is added a short account of his Life. Lond. 1712.”

In the Life, Mr. Henry mentions a publication of Mr. Stretton’s in 1679, “*The Protestant Nonconformist; or a Plea for Moderation*,” of which he says,—

“It had no name to it, but met with great acceptance. It was occasioned by a letter from his dear friend Mr. John Thoresby of Leeds, which was likewise printed with it; so I am informed, as likewise many other things concerning Mr. Stretton, by his son Mr. Ralph Thoresby, now of Leeds, that learned Antiquary, and Fellow of the Royal Society; who has already obliged the world with the additions to *Camden’s Britannia* for *Yorkshire*, and from whom is expected *the Antiquities of Leeds*, who was a true Lover of Mr. Stretton, and much respected by him.”

There is a curious and somewhat remarkable co-incidence in Thoresby’s intimacy with Strype and Matthew Henry, one of whom was an officiating clergyman at Hackney Church, while the other was Minister to the Hackney Nonconformists; and both so noted down to our own times. On the forenoon of one Sunday, Thoresby heard Mr. Henry read and explain the 3rd Chapter of Genesis, then, “after an excellent prayer (and therein for all sincere Christians, of what denomination soever),” preach from Isaiah, i, 18. And after dining with Mr. Henry,

\* The text was 2 Corinthians viii, 16,—“But thanks be to God, which put the same earnest care into the heart of Titus for you.” In the sermon Mr. Henry said,—“It was a petition which (as I am told) Mr. Stretton frequently put up to God in his prayers with his family,—“Lord, grant that we may be useful while we are here, and that we may not be wanted when we are gone.”

"at his friend's house (Mr. Hammond the Minister's son)," in the afternoon he heard Mr. Strype; going next by invitation to the house of the Vicar of Hackney, Mr. Newcome. Both sermons he pronounces excellent, and to both preachers he applies a phrase of frequent recurrence in his diary,—“preached very well.”

Thoresby remained in London until the 26th of August, writing out copy, correcting proofs, and directing engravers, of whom he engaged a third, Mr. Edwards. One day's hard work Thoresby mentions particularly:—

“Morning, rose by five; wrote in Diary; was at church, but afterwards writing for the press till almost blind; scarce moved from my seat till near three, then walked to both the printers.”

He then spent the evening with Mr. Dale, and with Mr. Collins by whom he was “treated.”

In the midst of all this occupation, Thoresby found more time for miscellaneous sight-seeing and visiting than might have been looked for. Walking through “St. James's Park, by the Duke of Buckingham's pleasant seat,” to Chelsea, he “viewed, *en passant*, the noble college for lame soldiers, where two legs are almost criminal;” and before his return, “late enough, by water,” he viewed “some rare plants in the physic garden” along with Cousin Cookson.\* With the same gentleman, and a fellow traveller, Mr. Ord, he visited the New Repository in Crane Court, Fleet Street, whither the curiosities of the Royal Society had been removed from Gresham College. Then they went, with Mr. Atkins, up the 534 steps to the top of St. Paul's, whence they “had a surprising view of the vast extent

\* This botanical garden was commenced by the Apothecaries' Company of London in 1673.

of the City, and an agreeable prospect of the neighbouring towns," \* they also,—

"Observed the whispering place round the dome within the church, and had a slight view of the Library. Afterwards, being disappointed by the printer, I walked to the West-end of the City, and through the Park, to Chelsea: observed some inscriptions in the new burying-place, appropriated to the Royal Hospital, Chelsea; Mr. Simon Box, who served King Charles the First and Second, King James the Second, and King William and Queen Mary, was the first who (Anno 1692) was interred therein. Having more particularly observed the statue of King Charles the Second in one of the courts, and the spacious and stately apartments for the poor lame soldiers, in the several courts, I went to dine with the Bishop of Gloucester, as his Lordship had most importunately requested."

This was Dr. Edward Fowler, who had been Bishop of Gloucester from the year 1691, on whom Thoresby called at his former visit to Chelsea (meeting there "with our common relation Cousin Cookson"), and by whom he was then agreeably entertained "with well attested narratives of Apparitions." The subject was renewed,—

"After dinner I repeated to his Lordship, from the original papers, what I had in general told of before, which were so agreeable that his Lordship earnestly desired me to publish them in the Appendix, and gave it me under his hand, that he thought it might be of good use to convince the sceptical in an infidel age."

But Thoresby did not carry out the recommendation, and the Bishop, dying in 1714, did not live to see the *Ducatus* published. A few days before his dining with Bishop Fowler, Thoresby had met at the Grecian Coffee House, near the

\* The highest, and finishing stone of St. Paul's Cathedral was placed, with formalities, in 1710. Chelsea Hospital, of which also Sir Christopher Wren was architect, was finished in 1690.



Temple, John Beaumont, author of "An Historical, Physiological and Theological Treatise of Spirits," and he now concludes,—

"His Lordship also presented me with Mr. Beaumont's History of Spirits, which his Lordship told me had done much good, and particularly had set to rights a friend of his (Mr. or Dr. Burnet, of the Charter-house) who had formerly been an unbeliever in that case. His Lordship's extraordinary kindness (which was surprising, and exceeded even expectations) detained me too long, not only with some remarkable narratives of spirits (of which one is inserted at the end of Mr. Beaumont's said Treatise) but with satisfactory discourses of moderation and piety, his Lordship glorying in the character of a low church bishop." \*

By appointment, Thoresby met his fellow Yorkshireman, Dr. Richardson, at Dr. Sloane's, in Bloomsbury Square,—

"Who entertained us most agreeably in his incomparable museum . . . In our return, we waited of my Lord Archbishop of York, and thence took coach with Dr. Richardson and Mr. Pettiver's to Mr. London's, to see her Majesty's royal garden, and his collections of plants, and drawings of the exotic plants and flowers in colours, admirably performed." †

\* An idea of religious importance attached to this question of apparitions, Thoresby writing on another occasion,—“Sent for by Dr. Halley, Savilian Professor, but was after troubled at an ingenious and learned gentleman, Mr. Ob. Od. whom I had formerly observed very zealous in opposing even the best attested narratives of apparitions, witchcraft, &c., who now confessed he believed there was no devil: The Lord enlighten him!” He was probably the “Mr. Oddy, a learned gentleman,” with whom, and Mr. Gale, Thoresby had visited a Coffee-House on the previous day. And again he writes,—“Finished the perusal of Mr. Beaumont's History of Genii, or spirits, presented to me, and recommended by the pious Bishop of Gloucester, from whom I had also an account of that very remarkable apparition mentioned in the postscript. His Lordship says this curious treatise has done much good in this sceptical age.” The story in the Postscript concerns the daughter of Sir Charles Lee, of Warwickshire, and concludes with a statement that the Bishop of Gloucester, Beaumont's informant, had it from Sir Charles himself. It is sufficiently marvellous, and while losing nothing in the telling, may have a good foundation of truth, though explicable by physical derangement without having recourse to the supernatural.

† The gardener George London is mentioned by Evelyn. He was gardener to William III and Queen Anne, along with Henry Wise; and the two established a celebrated Nursery-garden at Brompton.

A visit to a collection of rare birds, and a second walk to the Physic Garden at Chelsea, "detained us too long, that though we returned by water, had not time to wash, that I appeared shamefully like a sloven at dinner, at Sir Arthur Kaye's, which I was the more ashamed of, because entertained by the lady in Sir Arthur's absence, who was detained in the House by a strong debate in Parliament, that he could not return till afternoon."

Another day he went with Mr. Gale to the Tower, where they saw the Records, and to the Custom-House; after which,—

"In our way home called at Mr. Britton's, the noted small-coalman, where we heard a noble concert of music, vocal and instrumental, the best in town, which for many years past he has had weekly for his own entertainment, and of the gentry, &c., gratis, to which most foreigners and many persons of distinction, for the fancy of it, occasionally resort." He went with the Mayor of Leeds, Cousin Atkinson, "to Westminster, to see the tombs of the Kings, Queens and Nobles; observed some new ones for the nobility, but none (so much as wax-work representations) for King William and Queen Mary."

Meeting with Harley's Librarian, Humphrey Wanley, and Mr. Kempe, whose coin collection has before been spoken of,\* they would have Thoresby go "with them to drink Spruce beer." The next day he,—

"Received a visit from Mr. Kempe to see my Greek medals; the collection of the Syrian Kings was more complete than I expected; he would have made an exchange but I durst not adventure, he being an overmatch at them." But a while afterward he writes again,—“at Mr. Kempe's museum, comparing my Greek medals with some of his, for my further instruction; made some exchanges.”

Thoresby visited the Elstobs, and the "Saxon Nymph" showed him a parchment manuscript of Saxon Homilies which she was transcribing for the press, and,—

\* Vol. I, page 436.

"A delicate copy of the Textus Roffensis, wrote by a poor boy she keeps, most of it before he was quite ten years of age; his name is — Smith. I saw the boy, who has imitated the Saxon, and other antique hands, to a wonder; what Latin and Saxon he has was from her reading him the grammar."

Mr. Rawlinson, elder son of Sir Thomas Rawlinson, late Lord Mayor, entertained Thoresby with his collection of rare books, "manuscripts, ancient and modern, in Dutch as well as English, well illuminated and gilt," and of various editions of the Bible, which pleased most of all.

During this stay in London, Thoresby attended no less than nine meetings of the Royal Society, of which he gives some interesting particulars. On one occasion he was surprised at the large attendance of foreigners, and found that the Venetian Ambassador, and a Padua University Professor were to be proposed as Fellows. Both were present, as well as the Envoy from "the great Duke of Florence." Another day an improvement in music, "making the harpiscals go with the foot," was exhibited by a gentleman, who opened the instrument to show it to Sir Isaac Newton, the President. At another meeting he was concerned by a rumour of the death of Lord Chancellor Somers, who besides being a Fellow was a subscriber to the *Ducatus*; but the rumour was false, for Lord Somers lived four years longer, and his name is in Thoresby's list. And at a later meeting, Robert Nelson, the Author of *Fasts and Festivals*, met him with the name of a new subscriber who had sent her message by Nelson, Lady Elizabeth Hastings. At the next and last meeting, on Thursday, the last day of July, when there was an adjournment "as usual, till the latter end of October . . . two letters were read relating to the death and dissection of the Duke of Leeds," who had died the Saturday before. From Thoresby's Diary at this time we further learn that when these meetings were over, Fellows of the Royal Society often met again at the Grecian Coffee House.

There is repeated evidence that in preparing the various pedigrees for his Topography, Thoresby sought information from members of the families concerned whenever practicable. He was at some pains to obtain an interview with his very distant connexion Sir William Hardress, whose ancestor had married the daughter and heiress of Henry Thoresby the Benchler. Sir William left London, but did not leave Thoresby without response :—

“Upon my return to my lodgings, found a Kinsman of Sir William Hardress, of Hardress Court, near Canterbury, with an invitation thither, where the Gates of Bullen (that a predecessor brought thence at the memorable siege in Henry the Eighth’s time) now lead into the Court. He gave me an agreeable account of the family, from the Lady Hardress, who was Mr. Henry Thoresby’s daughter (this gentleman’s grandmother by Sir Thomas, the youngest of her four sons); he owns she was a £30,000 fortune to her family, and lived to be eighty-eight or ninety years of age: the relict of Thoresby Hardress is yet living, and about the same age.”

“I walked to my Lord Irwin, who has promised to have a new prospect of Temple Newsome engraved for my book, and was very respectful.”

That the promise was not realized may perhaps be explained by the death of Lord Irwin, in London, on the 18th of May 1714, the year before the *Ducatus* was published.\* He died from Small-pox, which, says Thoresby in the Appendix to that work, “have been so fatal to the nobility.” He was succeeded in the title and estates by his brother, Richard, the fourth Viscount. More fortunate was Thoresby with another of the County Gentry of his neighbourhood, now in London with him also, the successor to Sir John Cutler, Kt., at Gawthorpe and

\* Before leaving London, Thoresby went “to take leave of the Lord Irwin and receive directions about the prospect of Temple Newsome.” A view of Temple Newsome was inserted in Dr. Whitaker’s edition of the *Ducatus*, a century later.

Harewood.\* Dying in 1693, Sir John left his Harewood estate to his only surviving daughter Elizabeth, wife of the second Earl of Radnor; and in case of her dying without issue, as she did in 1696, to a relative whom Thoresby calls in the *Ducatus*, “my honoured and very kind friend, John Boulter, Esq.” And he there tells how Mr. Boulter, on coming to the estate, repaired Gawthorpe Hall, and made it “a most pleasant habitation,” taking his materials from the already ruined castle of Harewood; and further,—

“The said worthy gentleman Mr. *Boulter* has, ever since he came to the estate, annually paid a very considerable sum to the Vicar of *Harwood*, for preaching a Sermon every Lord’s Day in the afternoon, and catechising the Children; and to a School-Master, for teaching all the Children of the Parish, *gratis*, Reading, Writing and Arithmetick, and has in other respects been a noble Benefactor to the Publick,† and to this *Museum* in particular, as will appear in the Catalogue of the Curiosities; and has generously bestowed a Copper Plate, with the most compleat Map that ever was engraved for these Parts, and the first for any Part in the North of *England*, drawn after the new Method for twenty Miles round *Leedes*, like those for the like Distance from *London*, *Oxford* and *Cambridge*.”

And again in the Appendix,—

“That Public spirited Gentleman *John Boulter*, Esq., besides the Map before mentioned, hath been pleased to give a Plate containing the *Navigable* Course of the River *Aire* from *Leedes* to the *Humber* and *German* Ocean.”

\* Vol. I, page 369 and note. Pope follows up the couplet there quoted,—

“His only daughter in a stranger’s power,  
For very want, he could not pay her dower.”

† Thoresby’s Diary states that he “erected a stately column in the midst of the market [at Harewood], which is one of the most considerable for calves in these parts;” endowed the Vicarage with £50 a year, the school with £12 or £14; and,—“I lately saw my neighbour Atkinson engraving two pieces of plate that he had bought for the service of the Communion in that church.” The estate was purchased from the Boulter family by Henry Lascelles, Esq., father of the first Earl of Harewood.

The *latter* is at the foot of the former Map, on the same sheet. Thoresby's acquaintance with Mr. Boulter seems to have commenced with a visit to his museum by that gentleman in 1699; he "has ever since," writes Thoresby in the Review of his life, "for above twenty years, been a kind friend and noble benefactor to me and mine, having sent me more, and more valuable, curiosities than any one person living."

On Thoresby's first walk to Chelsea a few days after his first arrival in London in 1712, he went to visit his "good friend Mr. Boulter, and Mother;" and about a month later, after having on the Sunday morning heard Calamy at Westminster,—

"Went with Madam Boulter, in her coach, and at Chelsea met with my old friend Mr. Boulter, but was deluded unexpectedly, and so missed church in the afternoon, that I enjoyed not myself, though otherwise in very agreeable company."

"11 July.—Morning, rose a little after four; then wrote till six; at prayers; then again preparing for the press, and correcting that at Mr. Boyer's till eleven, when my kind friend Mr. Boulter brought his chariot from Chelsea, purposely to carry me to see Hampton Court: having passed through the City we passed the Gravel-pits, and had a clear air (whither the consumptive are sent by the physicians), and delicate, pleasant country, to Acton and Brentford; the Duke of Somerset's seat at Sion House looked most charmingly, and was the first time I had observed the lime-trees in the avenues cut in a pyramidal form, even to a great distance from the palace, which looked very noble; thence through Thistleworth and Twitnam,\* a very pleasant road; by the highway side is a monument, erected for the memorable Mrs. Whitrow, who was permitted to be there interred (*vide* the inscription), thence through the Park to Hampton Court, a noble palace indeed."

Thoresby then dilates on the grounds with its marble and brass statues, "amongst which, the famous Gladiator from St.

\* Now known as Isleworth and Twickenham.

James's Park;" on the Park, "replenished with deer as the river with swans; and the interior, where he particularly notes the hangings, of which those best pleased him "that were the needle-work of the late most pious and exemplary Queen Mary and her Maids of Honour." Raphael's Cartoons he ascribes to Michael Angelo, and states that, with Cæsar's Triumph, they exceed all the other pictures "though that of King William on horseback by Sir Godfrey Kneller is a master-piece." Amidst all, he,—

"Could not but remember the most noted Hampton Court Conference betwixt the Bishops and some of the most learned of the Nonconformists, before King James the First and his Nobles, now all entered upon a boundless eternity, where many of the contending parties enjoy a perfect harmony in that blessed state where fruitless contentions shall have no place, but universal charity shall ever flourish."

Having driven to Hampton Court on the north side of Thames, they returned on the south side, and quitting their coach at Ham, walked to the Earl of Dysart's, recently the seat of the Duke of Lauderdale,—

"We met the Duke of Argyle, with the Lady Dysart, and other nobles of both sexes, in the shady groves; we walked thence to Petersham, where the Queen's uncle, the late Earl of Rochester, had a noble seat, and would have been more so, if he could have continued the views and avenues of trees, &c. to the River Thames; he proffered the Earl of Dysart fifty years' purchase for some grounds, which would not be accepted, because of some unhappy animosities between the Countesses." \*

Thence they walked up the hill to Richmond, the favourite place of Mr. Boulter, stayed there all night, and before Mr.

\* Lionel Tollemach, the 2nd Earl of Dysart, succeeded to the Peerage on the death of his mother, Countess of Dysart in her own right; who took for a second husband the Duke of Lauderdale, but had no issue by him. The Earl married Grace, eldest daughter and co-heiress of Sir Thomas Wilbraham, Bart. Lawrence Hyde, created Earl of Rochester by Charles II, died in the year immediately preceding Thoresby's visiting Petersham. His wife was Henrietta, 4th daughter of the Earl of Burlington.

Boulter was up next morning Thoresby copied "the inscriptions upon Bishop Duppa's noble hospital, and Mr. Michel's Alms-houses." \* The evening was too far advanced on their arrival to allow light enough for the purpose. Having surveyed Richmond and somewhat of its vicinity, when Thoresby "could not but observe, upon a small sign at an out-house at the entrance to the town, 'The Royal Ass-house,'" he again took coach with Mr. Boulter, and proceeded to Mortlake, Putney and Wandsworth, where he "observed some ruinous houses, which seem to indicate its declining state; but," he concludes,—

"Upon the hill is a noble prospect of London and Thames, which we ferried over from Lambeth, where I took leave of my very kind friend, who generously treated me, and of his mere motion, tendered a map of Yorkshire, for twenty miles on each side of Leeds, like one he gave me of like dimensions round London, and subscribed also for a set of the books. Upon my return, I corrected three sheets and the revise of two; wrote by post to Justice Boynton; was after sent for by Mr. Sleigh, lately come from Leeds, and was surprised to hear of the death of Mr. Thomas Dixon, the head-master of the Free School, dead in the prime of his days." †

\* Brian Duppa, Dean of Christ Church, Oxford, and Tutor to Prince Charles, afterwards Charles the Second, made Bishop of Chichester in 1638, translated to Salisbury in 1641, and to Winchester in 1660, died at Richmond in 1662. He founded the Hospital, or Alms-houses, for ten poor women, the year before his death, in fulfilment of a vow that he had made when the King was in exile. Alms-houses for ten old men were founded at Richmond about the year 1696, by Humphrey Michell and his nephew, John Michell.

† Thomas Dixon, M.A., successor to Mr. Dwyer (*Ante*, page 82) was the younger son of Thomas Dixon, twice Mayor of Leeds, who had died only the year before, 1711, at the age of 87. The elder son, the Rev. Bright Dixon, M.A., who succeeded the Rev. Henry Robinson at St. John's (Vol. I., page 302 note) had died 12 Sep. 1709; and in the British Museum (Add. M.S.S. 4276) is a letter dated the 16th of September in that year, containing this passage:—"I shall wait with impatience to hear the result of the meeting on Monday. I was glad to find they had resolved to go on to an election so quickly, because this will put off old Mr. Dixon from recommending his son Thos., as not being yet in orders, the thoughts of which might perhaps make him so shy of declaring his thoughts to my Cousin Robinson." This letter was addressed to Richard Thornton, the Recorder of Leeds, and the writer, a Mr. Pearson, was doubtless his relative the Archdeacon; Bright Dixon's successor, the Rev. Henry Lodge, was chosen on the 19th.



On the 29th of July Thoresby again called on Mr. Boulter:—

“To Chelsea, to my very kind friend Mr. Boulter, where consulted about the map. He generously offered to take me along with him in his own coach into Yorkshire, which would both oblige me with good company, and save 40s. coach hire. I afterwards visited the ingenious Mr. Croft, our countryman and an author . . . was with both the printers, and at the rolling press, and lastly to consult Mr. Lens, an ingenious artist, about drawing the monument at Hackney, and some medals. Saw some curious drawings of his with the pen, and others he had engraved also in mezzo-tints.”\*

“Aug. 2.—Morning lay till five; corrected a sheet; was at church and printer’s, then within, writing till noon, when visited by Mr. Boulter, with whom about the Map, to procure the largest and best already published, thence to make a new one twenty miles on each side of Leeds; was with the engraver Mr. Sutton Nichols (formerly Mr. Boulter’s servant) afterwards at the printer’s, &c.”

Hitherto Thoresby had complained of delay in printing, a prevalent disease now increased it:—

“31 July.—Found the work go slow on, yet could not blame them, two of the Compositors being in this new distemper, of which multitudes are sick, by the Physicians called a feveret.”

He had himself been apprehensive of fever about a fortnight before, having over-heated himself with walking; but remaining indoors and making the printers attend upon him, his apprehension was quickly relieved. And when the printers found that he was near returning home, they employed him more fully than he cared to be:—

\* Bernard Lens, mezzo-tinter and etcher, who also drew for Sturt and other engravers, was the son of Bernard Lens the painter, who had died in 1708; and the father of Bernard Lens the painter in water-colours, and drawing-master to the Duke of Cumberland and Princesses Mary and Louisa, children of George the Second. The print of the Hackney monument bears Sturt’s name only.

"4 Aug.—Morning, having set both the presses at work in Paternoster Row and White Friars, I walked to Kensington; was in time for the prayers at the church there, as well as at St. Paul's, in the morning; but to my shame do I record it, that though twice now, yet took a sad leave of them, the printers (upon notice of my designed return) pressing so hard upon me to keep the four Compositors at work, that I have never since got to the morning prayers, though I seldom was in bed at five (never, I think, of late), and sometimes not at four, yet I was in a perpetual hurry preparing matter for the press, correcting the proofs and the revise sheets."

Nevertheless, that day he made several calls, the last upon Lord Chief Justice Parker, by request, at Serjeant's Inn,\*—

"Enjoyed his excellent company, after he had discharged his Levee, which was great; he subscribed for the royal paper, and paid the guinea, and would have given me two, which I refused, but accepted his picture in paper, by Mr. Vertue."

In a round of leave-taking next day Thoresby met in Petty France with another good friend, Sir Bryan Stapleton,—

"Who readily promised to frank the sheets as printed off, and send them to me in the country."

On Sunday the 10th of August, his press of business disturbed his observance of the day. He read a sermon in the

\* Lord Chief Justice Parker was connected by marriage with a family of the same name, one of whom, Robert Parker, had an estate at Chapel-Allerton, Leeds, and founded an Hospital, or Alms-Houses, for ten poor widows. Therefore, Thoresby inserted the Parker pedigree in his Topography, with this appended,—"This Pedigree is an Emblem how true Charity improves by using; 'twas first inserted for the sake of my old Friend the Benefactor, but hereby these Papers are since honoured with the Name of the learned and pious Sir *Tho. Parker*, Lord Chief Justice of the Queen's Bench, of whom a very learned Author gives a Character that his Enemies cannot deny to be justly due to his Lordship's Merit, "That to his great Understanding in our Common and Statute Laws, and in the English Constitution before and since the Conquest, his Lordship has added such a Knowledge of all the most useful Parts of Divinity, that it is not easy to determine whether he's better skill'd in Human or Divine Laws." The learned Author who gave Parker this character was Dr. Hickes, in a preface to Mr. Elstob's "Essay on the great Affinity and mutual Agreement of the two Professions of Divinity and Law;" a work presented to Thoresby, while in London, by Mr. Elstob himself.

morning before attending service at St. Swithen's, where he heard Mr. Elstob; and then dined with him, the boy nine years old who could write Latin and Saxon waiting at table. In the afternoon heard a Nonconformist, his correspondent Mr. Tong; and in the evening another, Thomas Bradbury, a notable of his day whom Mr. Hunter, in his M.S. *Britannia Puritanica*, calls "the flaming Whig Divine."\* But Thoresby concludes,—

"Afterwards (expecting Mr. Boulter in the morning to begin our Yorkshire journey), I walked to Dr. Sloane's and to Crane Court, to return the manuscript minutes of the weekly proceedings of the Royal Society since I came to Town; was severely wet, and had another misfortune which I interpreted a judgement upon my intrenching upon the Lord's Day. Pardon, O merciful Father, whatever thy pure eyes have seen amiss in me this day!"

After all, when next morning he had put up his apparel and books, "expecting my friend Mr. Boulter," the journey was deferred and he spent most of the day giving directions to "the compositors from both presses." On the following Friday he writes,—

"Dispatching away my trunk and one parcel by the carrier to Leeds; then at both the printers till noon. After, writing, and at Mr. Ashley's directing the rolling press."

The next Sunday, before morning service, Thoresby read an "excellent sermon, preached at the last anniversary meeting of the children educated in the charity schools in the city, June 12, when I saw many hundreds of them going to the church that the streets could scarcely be passed for the concourse." It had been preached by the Hon. and Rev.

\* Mr. Bradbury had been an assistant at the Meeting-House of the Independent Section of Leeds Nonconformists in Call Lane. After the death of their Minister, Thoresby's "Cousin Whitaker," Mr. Bradbury preached a couple of sermons there relating to him which were afterward published with the title,—*"A Faithful Minister's Farewell to his People."*

George Verney, who in the previous year had succeeded to the peerage as 4th. Lord Willoughby de Broke, and the year after became Dean of Windsor and Register of the Order of the Garter. Thoresby then heard sermons at church, morning and afternoon, with the former of which he was much affected,—

“It being so suitable to the providence of God, that these parts labour under at this time, a new distemper, which some call a feveret, others the Dunkirk distemper or fever, of which some compute an hundred thousand were sick at the same time; the like was never known before. A gentleman told me nine of his family were down of it the same time.”

Thoresby was accompanied by Mr. Bland, to introduce him to his Cousin Dale’s at the College of Arms, with whom they were to dine; and, after the afternoon service, they stayed, he tells,—

“So long at Mr. Dale’s (when other books than were very proper for the Lord’s Day were too much my diversion) that I was very late at the evening lecture, where I found my friend, the pious Mr. Henry, giving good directions against foolish thoughts, which was proper for me: Lord pity and pardon!”

The following Saturday was then fixed for leaving London, and on Friday Thoresby again was busy with preparations,—

“Lay till five; then writing, and putting up papers and books for Yorkshire, to send by the carrier, hoping to begin our journey (according to appointment) to-morrow, with my good friend Mr. Boulter; the Lord make it prosperous, and grant I may find all well at home! Sending away my books and papers, and correcting the press, took up the forenoon. Dined at Mr. Preston’s (Sir B. Ailoffe’s son-in-law) who kindly subscribed for two books. Afternoon, again correcting the press: was at both the printers’ in Paternoster Row and Whitefriars, and at the rolling press in Fetter Lane until evening, when I was surprised with the old gentlewoman’s (Mr. Atkin’s mother), demand of 4s. per week for my lodgings, whereas

by contract that was to be gratis, and but a slender compensation for the fatigue and expense of my journey. She pretended her son had nothing to do but in the shop; the disingenuity vexed me more than the gold I paid her, and took her discharge."

"Thus, even in publishing his Topography, the fatality which ever seemed attendant upon Thoresby's monetary transactions did not fail him; and not for the first time in his life, he yielded to imposition. Petty vexations often cause annoyance disproportionate to their actual consequences; and want of principle in those with whom he had to deal seems to have produced in Thoresby a sense of depression. He now adds,—

"But I was somewhat revived with a most kind letter sent me from Whitehall, wherein good Mr. Newman acquainted me that at the motion of the excellent Mr. Nelson (the pious Author of the Companion for the Festivals and Fasts of the Church, and other devout tracts), the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge had elected me a corresponding member of their Society, with a pleasing account of their success in ten years, since their happy institution; the good Lord continue to bless their pious endeavours! to which I shall be glad if I can in the lowest degree be serviceable."

It was thirteen years since the first institution of the Society, and several of Thoresby's correspondents and eminent friends were among its earlier members,—The Bishop of Gloucester before mentioned; White Kennet, Bishop of Peterborough; Dr. Edmund Gibson, and Humphrey Wanley, for some time secretary. It deserves notice that Thoresby's proposer was Nelson, an adherent of the Non-jurors, who refrained from communicating with the Established Church until after the death of the last non-juring Bishop except Kew, who resigned his claim to the See that he formerly held. But widely as their views differed politically, a charitable and truly

liberal spirit was common to both. There were other three days' delay in Thoresby's home journey, and, being out during the afternoon before his departure he "was troubled to miss of the excellent Mr. Nelson and a clergyman" who called upon him; and he was in doubt whether this clergyman were the Non-juring Dean Hickes, or Dr. Bray, the originator, above all others, of the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge, and of that which quickly succeeded it for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts. The spread of Christianity was a subject grateful to Thoresby, who amid the interest of his great publication and the occupation which it furnished, and all other attractions that London afforded him, wrote,—

"In my walks, finished the perusal of the pleasing account of the success of the two Danish missionaries, lately sent to the East Indies; was much affected with the conversion of the Malabar heathens."

At length, on Tuesday the 26th of August 1712, this, the most memorable of all Thoresby's visits to London came to its end, and with Mr. Boulter he set out for Leeds. Not until noon,—

"Morning . . . at both the printers' giving them the rest of the copy: breakfasted at Mr. Gale's, took leave of that good friend and Mr. Dale; then at Mr. Oldisworth's Museum, bought some Indian curiosities\* . . . then hasted to meet Mr. Boulter, of Bloomsbury, according to appointment; took leave of Mr. Collins (who has printed the Peerage of England, in three volumes, and is now about the History of Baronets), I walked with Mr. Boulter to Mr. Vertue's to see the imperfect effigies, and thence to his new lodgings."

They then started homeward by way of Hampstead and Highgate, whence, having "a most delicate clear day," they enjoyed the extensive view. Skirting Enfield Chase, abounding

\* He previously mentions,—“Mr. Austin Oldisworth's collection of curiosities; he hath several animals, and some antiquities, but for variety of shells is reputed the best in Town, save Mr. Stonestreet's.”

“with deer and wood,” they went on to Barnet, Hatfield and Welwyn, “a town of good inns,” to Stevenage, “a great malting town,” for the night. On Wednesday they proceeded “through Baldock Lanes, notorious for their badness, as the neighbourhood for exaction of *passage-gelt* through the enclosures,” to Biggleswade, and there branched off to Bedford. Thoresby gives this account of the County Town:—

“There are two gate-houses upon the bridge,\* and near the river side has been an ancient castle, of which scarce so much as any ruins remain, there being a bowling-green upon the height of all, whence a good prospect into the adjoining country; it is a clean town, but dead for want of trade and business; no spirit or life appeared; we could not procure a map of the county, either at the bookseller’s, coffee-house or inn.”

His history of their second day’s travelling concludes:—

“We crossed over the country to see Harwood (which the country people called Harold or Harlswood) which is pleasantly situate, in this dry season, but seems to be too low and moist for winter, though here is a pleasant seat of the Lady Jolly. The standing still of the River Ouse, and leaving a clear passage void of water, before the civil wars of 1399 and the death of Charles the First, is both mentioned by Mr. Camden and his continuator in Dr. Gibson’s edition, and was also confirmed to us by the inhabitants, particularly a gentleman that was fishing, who said it was a little above where he then was. In our way hither, we passed over two bridges of about thirty low arches each, and some part of the way as rocky as can well be supposed in the most remote parts of the island, though the arable land is carefully cultivated; as also in Hertfordshire, where I forgot to note that we observed a plough with two small iron wheels, which render it very expeditious in husbandry. From Harwood we passed through . . . where was a very antique fabric, which the inhabitants had no name

\* They were taken down in 1765; one had been used as a prison.—*Lysons*.

for, whereby to distinguish whether it had been for sacred or civil uses, and it was so dark we could discern no particular form; it afterwards grew so excessive dark before we could reach our journey's end, that we very narrowly escaped overturning; we got out of the coach, not without difficulty, and walked on foot to Northampton, where we lodged."

Before journeying onward on Thursday they looked about Northampton, "as now rebuilt, one of the most delicate, pleasant towns in England;" its chief manufacture, then as now, "shoes and boots." Thoresby did not leave it without transcribing epitaphs, "among the rest, one for John Bailes, who died in April 1706, aged 126, yet his hearing, sight and memory perfect." Next they went to Market-Harborough, "a large market-town, but chiefly noted for the best coach-horses, and those for troopers, sold here in great numbers at their annual fairs;" and thence to Leicester for the night.—"The feast of St. Blase, a bishop, is celebrated yearly about Candlemas by those who deal in wool, he being said to be the first who invented the combing thereof."

On Friday, by Mount Sorrel, "or Steril, as some call it, alluding to its sterility," they went to Loughborough, and afterward "reached Nottingham in so great time that we hoped to have got to Mansfield, but the coach wanting some repair detained us." Consequently they did not get further that day, but "hereby took the fuller view of the town." Besides the castle, Thoresby visited,—

"Mr. Fenton, prebendary of Southwell, a native of our parish, and had the benefit of the prayers at his church; then went to see them make the curious Nottingham mugs; he formed one piece of clay into a mug, then immediately into a teapot, then a decanter, and in a few moments into six or seven vessels, of quite different forms, which brought to my thoughts that Scripture, 'as clay in the hands of the potter.' We went also to see Mr. Nicholas Strelley (of the ancient



family of Strelley, of Strelley) spin glass very fine, and make some curiosities of the same materials; bought some."

On Saturday, rising early, they journeyed "over the pleasant forest of Sherwood," arriving "late enough," at Doncaster, where again they lodged the night over; and on the next day, the last in August, Thoresby had an unsatisfactory Sunday,—

"Was much concerned that was obliged to travel all the day with my friend, at whose expense I have been all the journey, and whose business called him to York, where we arrived in the evening, after a most uncomfortable day's journey, not only in the anxiety of my mind, which was very uneasy, but other cross accidents; had much rain, and missed our way more than in all the journey before, so that we might read our sin in the punishment."

"Sept. 1.—Morning, walked with Mr. Boulter to Mr. Place's and Dr. Ashenden's; visited also Cousin Lumley's and Admiral Fairfax;\* we begun our journey about noon, and got in good time to Gawthorp Hall, the seat of my kind friend, Mr. Boulter, whose company and books enjoyed in the Evening."

"2.—Morning, rose early; then rode to Leeds by eight, where, through the Divine goodness, I found my poor family well, and had renewed occasion to bless our merciful Protector, both for personal and relative mercies; made my first visit (as in conscience and gratitude obliged), to the house of God, and after to relations and friends, which took up rest of day and evening: read only in Psalms and Numbers, where had left off when begun my journey."

Thus Thoresby at length responded to the urgency of his friends, digested the collections which had occupied him for so many years, and in good earnest set the press to work upon the Topography of Leeds. It was not brought to a stand by his quitting London. The second week after his

\* Dr. Moses Ashenden, a York physician, was the son of a Leeds gentleman, and brother to the wife of Castillion Morris, Town Clerk of Leeds, before spoken of. Vice-Admiral Robert Fairfax belonged to the Stecton branch of the family.

return home Francis Place followed him from York, and spent several days in Leeds taking "prospects" of "the Town and navigable river," of the "New Church" and the "Old Church," to be afterward engraved for illustration of the book in hand. Place's View of the Town was taken from Cavalier Hill, whither Thoresby accompanied him. He drew St. John's on the day of the interment of a member of the Corporation, Alderman Rontree, whose office it was proposed to bestow on Thoresby. For it was at this time Thoresby became sorely troubled by the threat of Aldermanic dignity, and after Mr. Place's return to York, he made his literary work a pretext for escape from municipal,—“to avoid appearance at Court, took what sheets of the *Ducatus Leodiensis* are printed off, and carried them to Mr. Plaxton, who has importunately desired the perusal of them.” He did not return home until the next day, and then, in walking,—“read the knowledge of Medals, an excellent tract, translated from the French, by my honoured friend, Roger Gale, Esq.”

Among other notices of the progress of the *Ducatus* during the next few months, those relating to the Catalogue of Thoresby's coins are prominent; and notwithstanding his love of the subject, it appears that he grew somewhat wearied of it. “Again poring upon the old coins, and proceeding in the Catalogue, which is tedious enough,” he wrote towards the close of the year 1712; but he adds, “had son Ralph's assistance.” His elder son, then in his fifteenth year, had become his companion and assistant; he accompanied Thoresby to Beeston Hall, a day or two after Thoresby's return from London. Their errand was to return a parchment, probably concerning the Bland Pedigree.\*

\* In coming home, they,—“saw much vanity at a distance upon Holbeck Moor, at the Feast foolishly begun there of late years.” The following Christmas there appears to have been a menagerie in Leeds, for on the 26th of December Thoresby writes,—“With my two boys, to show them the Lion, Panther, &c.”

Thoresby mentions other two short expeditions during the Autumn, of some interest. Accompanied by Dr. Tomlinson, a Leeds physician, and grandson of a Royalist Captain of Horse during the Civil Wars, he visited Ledstone Hall,—

“Where most kindly received by the excellent and most pious Lady Elizabeth Hastings, who showed me some valuable books and pictures of relations, both of the Earl of Huntingdon’s family and Sir John Lewis’s the benefactor; amongst other, the Lady Davis’s (the Irish prophetess), and a treatise of her husband’s (the Attorney General) concerning the Immortality of the Soul; these and the agreeable conversation tempted us to stay too long, and we were late enough home.”\*

Soon afterward he rode with Alderman Milner to the new house at Nun Appleton, then nearly completed;† and while there,—

“Was in company of old Robert Taite, who has seen the chapel and some remains of the nunnery; saw the old house pulled down and a stately new one erected by Thomas Lord Fairfax, the General, and now the most of that pulled down, and a much more convenient (though not quite so large an one) erected by Mr. Milner; he remembers the first Thomas Lord Fairfax and his son Ferdinando; was servant to the third Lord, the General; the Lord Henry and last Lord Thomas were also survived by him, who now lives in the sixth Lord Fairfax’s time, five of whom he has seen.”

The next day, after “transcribing some memorandums of Mr. Henry Fairfax (father to the fourth Lord), relating to Bolton Church, of which he was Rector,” Thoresby returned

\* Lady Elizabeth Hastings was daughter of the 7th Earl of Huntingdon, by his first wife, Elizabeth, elder daughter and co-heiress of Sir John Lewis of Ledstone (Vol. I, page 151). The sixth Earl of Huntingdon, grand-father of Lady Elizabeth Hastings, married Lucy, daughter and heiress of Sir John Davis, Attorney General for Ireland. Her mother was Eleanor, daughter of George, Earl of Castlehaven.

† Ante, page 42, note. The nunnery was founded in the reign of Stephen, by Alice de St. Quintin, and was governed by a Prioress. It came into possession of the Fairfax family not very long after its surrender at the Dissolution.

with Alderman Milner to Leeds. He continued writing for the press, and correcting proofs sent down to him, aided in this by Ralph Thoresby, junior; but a startling mishap interrupted the course of his publication.

In the night-time from the 29th to the 30th of January 1713, Bowyer's printing office in Whitefriars, together with his house and its contents, were destroyed by a fire; and therewith those sheets of the *Ducatus* which Bowyer had printed. Evil news travels quickly, and Thoresby's Diary for the 3rd of February has the following:—

“Surprised with the account of Mr. Bowyer's house being burnt, and £5000 damage in books; and among the rest, about twenty sheets of mine that were printed at that press, which will retard the publication.”

But Thoresby was not absorbed by the thought of his own share in the disaster. He adds,—“but was chiefly concerned for the ingenious printer's loss, though hope he may obtain a brief.” Bowyer petitioned the Lord Mayor and Alderman for a brief, stating,—“That the whole loss, upon a moderate computation, amounts unto the sum of 5146*l.* and upwards;” that he and his family were “reduced to extreme want and poverty;” and that all had “to fly for their lives out of their beds, with only such a part of their common wearing apparel as could on the sudden be taken with them, though not sufficient to cover them; leaving a gentleman of their family behind, who perished in the flames and was burnt to ashes.” His name was Charles Cock, and Bowyer had a memorial ring made for him with the inscription,—“C. C. passé par Feu an Ciel, 30 Jan. 1712, age 76,” the year being given O.S. The brief was granted, and raised £1514 13*s.* 4 $\frac{3}{4}$ *d.*, out of which Bowyer gave £136 14*s.* 0 $\frac{3}{4}$ *d.* to other sufferers. A further sum of £1162 5*s.* 10*d.* was raised for him by private subscription, in

which Five Guineas were contributed by one of Thoresby's Publishers, Mr. Edward Nutt.\*

On the 21st of February, Thoresby was "all day close at work to repair the damage done by the fire at London, revising some sheets." This confirms the statement of Nichols that the burnt portion of the *Ducatus* was promptly reprinted elsewhere, Bowyer's fellows in the trade giving him other than pecuniary assistance until his own press re-commenced in October after the fire. But the following letters in Nichols show nevertheless that Thoresby did not think himself treated as he ought to have been. They are dated on the very day upon which he rejoiced at his emancipation from Corporate honours, though at the cost of a £20 fine:—

"For the Honoured Roger Gale, Esq., at the Honourable House of Commons, Westminster."†

"Leedes May 30, 1713."

"Honoured Sir,

"I perceive by your good Brother's Letter that both the sheets arrived safe. Be pleased, good Sir, to pardon the trouble of the enclosed, and continue your respects to yours &c.

"R. THORESBY."

"To Samuel Gale, Esq."

May 30, 1713."

"Worthy Sir,

"I was glad to see your hand, dreading lest some indirect insinuations from one who has the opportunity of personal

\* Nichols's Literary Anecdotes.

† Roger Gale was then one of the members for Northallerton, but he either withdrew from its Representation, or was defeated at the election in the Autumn of the same year. At page 203 of the *Ducatus*, Thoresby expresses much obligation to him, while giving account of the Gale family, in the following passage:—" . . the learned and excellent Dr. *Tho. Gale* late Dean of *York*, whom I cannot name without a sigh for my particular Loss, as well as that of Learning in general, by his much lamented Death, which much retarded this Work, that had scarce been able now to see the Light, but for the kind Assistance of his learned Son *Roger Gale*, Esq."

converse might lessen the respect you have been pleased to express for me. I could not tell how to do without the kind assistance I have from the two famous books. I much question whether the Picture will reach London before it be utterly ruined; which Mr. A. might have prevented, by having it put up with my friend's linen, which he had notice of in due time. I will endeavour to make both myself and others as easy as possible under such treatment as I expected not, and I think is no more for his interest than mine. I hope he will send the printed sheets and my copy too, that I may collate them as far as is finished. I am sorry for what you writ, that so much of the original M.S. is burnt. I was told all was safe but half a sheet. I am kept in the dark, as one not worthy to be acquainted with the matter, and have not one sheet by me but what I revised before I left London. He grudged at my importunity to have a single sheet transmitted; but if it had not been secured by that means, the loss by the fire had been irretrievable. I have not one line of the *Coins*; but requested that a smaller sort of Capitals might be made use of; and that no word might be printed in that character but what was so in the original M.S. Whether it has been complied with I know not; but I shall be more easy now that you are so kind as to undertake that province. My service, pray, to Mr. Dale (with thanks for his kind help), and Mr. Wanley when you visit my Lord Treasurer's noble Library. Pray, in what forwardness is Mr. Marshall's Chronological Tables? I hope I have secured two subscribers; so that I shall have but one besides what I design for my own use. When they come out, I suppose two will be sent me in lieu of the first payment. But I am tedious. Pardon, Good Sir, this tedious scribble from your obliged, humble servant,

“R. THORESBY.”

Thoresby's work progressed, despite the fire, and all other obstacles :—

“21 November.—Finished the Catalogue of the manuscripts.”

“16 December.—At both churches, collating the printed

epitaphs with the monuments (wherein son Ralph was of use to me), and writing new ones till near dark; visited Aunt Sykes. Evening, perusing old charters."

"17.—Was all day, except usual walks to church, within, proceeding in the charters, letters patent, &c."

"19.—Morning, read and wrote; forenoon, proceeding in manuscripts till eleven; rest of day concluding that part of the ancient charters and deeds."

His museum also gave him occupation; but these pursuits, which might now be considered his sole business, did not monopolise his care. Though freed from municipal office, as well as commercial undertakings, he still gave time and attention to public matters. He "subscribed a petition to the Archbishop for liberty to erect a new gallery for one hundred persons, on the south side of the church;" and he "walked with the Mayor and Alderman Milner to Burnitops\* to see the new designed organ, that the placing it may not be incommodious to the church." A week later, he was "after prayers, with Mr. Shelton, &c., about placing of the organ, to prevent its fixing against the commands at our end of the church, and succeeded."† When the organ was first used, on the last Sunday of August in the following year, 1714, Thoresby was in London; but an Addenda to the Ducatus has this record.—

"Since the preceding sheets were printed, a new Gallery of right Wainscot hath been erected along the South Side of the Church, and a very fine, large *Organ*; the case whereof is adorned with very curious carved Work; the Front Pipes

\* "Burmandtofts, or Burnitops (as it is commonly, but corruptly called)," says the *Ducatus*.

† George Banister, son of the Town Clerk of the same name, had in 1708, given the rents of a farm of £6 per annum at Sutton, near Ferrybridge, for the salary of an organist, when an organ should be set up either in the Parish Church or St. John's; meanwhile, the money was to be given in charity, as the Trustees should decide.

laid over with right Gold, the whole containing near thirteen hundred Speaking Pipes, was performed by Mr. *Henry Price* Organ-builder. May this ever answer the Expectations of such whose Devotions are the more excited by harmonious Melody, and always be accompanied with the fervant Transports of Devout Souls, but never distract the Thoughts of any who pretend to worship the Divine Majesty in this his Holy Temple."

Near the close of August 1713, Thoresby again engaged in electioneering, on the occasion of the last General Election in the reign of Queen Anne. Parliament had been prorogued on the 16th of July. It was dissolved on the 8th of August, and writs were afterward issued for a new Parliament returnable on the 12th of November. The great political question was the recent Treaty of Utrecht, particularly in relation to its provisions for commerce with France; a bill in accordance with which had been rejected by a small majority when it had all but passed the House of Commons.\* At this crisis, while the elections were pending, Thoresby's friend, Bishop Burnet, brought to a close his "History of His own Time," censuring the Treaty, and the Queen's Speech at the Prorogation. Vice-Admiral Robert Fairfax was a candidate. On the 27th of August, Thoresby was "visited by Dr. Fairfax, son, brother and uncle to the Lords of that name, with whom about the Admiral's election for the City of York." And the next day,—“with the Doctor, to address several freemen of York, in behalf of Vice-Admiral Fairfax, till ten; afternoon,

\* At many places during this Election, the Whigs, opponents of the said bill, had pieces of wool in their hats in token of their regard for English manufactures; the Tories wearing, as a counter badge, green boughs, identifying themselves with the Restoration. A year after the Election, Thoresby met in London Mr. Cooke, afterward Sir Charles Cooke, who, he writes,—“obliged me with part of his judicious discourse before the Parliament relating to the trade to Turkey, which so ingeniously and substantially proves the advantage of the Levant Trade with Great Britain, by transporting thither our woollen cloth fully manufactured, and importing raw silks, &c., that are manufactured by the poor here, that it quite overthrew the articles relating to trade with France.”



again sent for by the Doctor." There is no further mention of the election, but the Gazette of the 15th of September records . . . Fairfax, Esq., returned member for York City, along with one of its former representatives, Sir William Robinson, Bart. But Fairfax was not returned without a contest, and it was only by 835 votes against 802 that he defeated his opponent, Tobias Jenkins.\* On the 6th of October, Thoresby spent part of the evening with Dr. Fairfax, and next day was,—

"Visited by Admiral Fairfax, &c., with whom and other gentry, Sir Arthur Kay, Sir Bryan Stapleton and his son, &c. I dined at the Mayor's, and spent the rest of the day there and at Court, where my Cousin Cookson received his quietus, and Mr. Rookes was sworn Mayor."

On the 22nd of January 1714, Thoresby says,—“preparing a table of antiquities to be engraved;” and the next day,—“was all day within framing a second table, and drawing three Roman Deities, an altar and two bricks.” Statues of Jupiter, Ammon, Vesta and Neptune; the Roman Altar which had been his Father's, and an allusion to which in the Philosophical Transactions led to Thoresby's connexion with the Royal Society; and the two Roman bricks from York, inscribed Ninth and Twentieth Legions, head this sheet of Antiquities. The other consists of coins, with the addition of two small bas-reliefs, Adonis being the subject of one, a present from Mr. Boulter; a Roman Triumph of the other, which had been sent from Italy to Archbishop Sharpe, and was presented to the Museum by him. This, therefore, was probably one of the selections which Thoresby now prepared for the engraver; the Donor of it was near his life's end. Archbishop Sharpe died at Bath

\* Sir William Robinson had 1368 votes; and at the next election in 1715, after the Accession of George 1st, he again headed the poll with 1388. But there was then a notable alteration as to the second candidate. Admiral Fairfax slightly increased his number, polling 844 votes; yet Tobias Jenkins displaced him, polling 1225.

on the 2nd of February, but it was the 10th before Thoresby heard the news of this "public and private loss." Thus, another of the friends who had taken interest in Thoresby, and in his favourite pursuits, another of the subscribers to the *Ducatus*, died before its completion; and the remonstrances against delay which had repeatedly been made to him might well be recalled by the event.\* On the 25th of February, he mentions "proceeding in Topography," when he "had son Ralph's help in collating the print with the manuscript Pedigrees;" and at the beginning of May he again set out for London.

On the 2nd of May 1714, the exigencies of travelling again disturbed Thoresby's observance of Sunday. He was surprised by a message from Wakefield that the coach for London could not reach Leeds, and this, he says, "put me upon the necessity of putting up my clothes," to send on by the messenger. And on Monday morning,—“Had not time to read, lest I should be too late for the Coach; recommended my poor family and myself to the Divine protection.” He was accompanied to Wakefield by one of his numerous cousins, "Cousin Cockhil," and there met with the Vicar of Bradford, Mr. Clapham, whose wife was to be his fellow-traveller. "We afterwards had the company of Mr. Sunderland, of Ackworth (designed for Sheriff of Yorkshire the next year), and Mr. Waterhouse." Baiting at Doncaster, Thoresby "paid old Mrs. Grant 3*l*. for herself, and Mr. Denton, a poor aged Minister." Finally, they lodged for the night at Barnby-Moor.

\* About this time a discovery was made at Kirkstall Abbey, which Thoresby went to inspect. A stone coffin was found by the wall alongside the garden, with a slab over the head part only, the rest being covered "with small tiles (though larger than the Romans') of various forms and colours." His first intelligence raised hopes of a Roman Tesselated pavement; and having seen it he jumped to the conclusion that it was the coffin of the "Master-Pontificer" of the building. The discovery was made in digging, for what purpose is not stated; but subsequently Thoresby obtained some of the tiles on calling "at Mr. Moore's, at the Forge."

Tuesday the 4th,—

“We dined at Grantham; had the annual solemnity (this being the first time the Coach passed the road in May) of the coachmen and horses being decked with ribbons and flowers, the town music and young people in couples before us; we lodged at Stamford, a scurvy, dear town.”

“5.—Had other passengers, which, though females, were more chargeable in wine and brandy than the former part of the journey, wherein we had neither; but the next day,

“6.—We gave them leave to treat themselves; the Coach dining at Oakenbury we missed Huntingdon, but had a prospect of St. Neot's and St. Ives, nigh together; passed through Eaton (which truly answers the name *Ea Aqua*) and a low moist country, abounding with willows, of which are made osier baskets, screens, &c. which with bobbin-lace, seem the chief manufactures of these parts: these parts also abound with barley, which they roll with a large stone, as we do Bowling Greens.\* Near Thamsford (where our Archdeacon Chetwood, Dean of Gloucester, has a pleasant seat) I observed a layer of variously coloured pebbles, &c. three-quarters of a yard below the surface of the earth. I left the Coach to seek for fossil shells and formed stones, but could find none in so little time; this afternoon, we arrived safe at our journey's end; was courteously entertained by Mr. Collins, my Gaius, who is writing the History of the Baronets; but was concerned at the bad news concerning the undertaker, Atkins, and my own book; said to be absconded.”

The following letter to Thoresby, printed in Nichol's Literary Anecdotes, shows that he had some claim upon Mr. Collins's courtesy. It is dated the 24th of March, without the year being given, but it appears to have been written between this London journey of Thoresby's, and the one preceding it:—

\* Rolling young corn, seems by this to have been, to Thoresby, a novelty.

“Sir,

The enclosed came to me under a cover, directed to Sir George Beaumont; and yesterday I received the collection of Epitaphs, which am much obliged to you for sending. This is a fresh instance of your friendship, in trusting me with a work that gave you so much trouble in collecting; and, I assure you, great care shall be taken of it. I returned that you sent last, by the same person that brought it me, without keeping it any time. I have been to wait on Sir Griffith Boynton, but he has gone to Mr. W. . . . at Brompton Park. To-morrow, I hope to see . . . I think I wrote you word I had seen Sir John Rawson; I shall see him again to-morrow, and receive the account of his family corrected; and I hope I shall get the manuscript. When I was with him, he could not give it me. If you recollect yourself, you told me a relation of Sir William Hardress had continued it, and you had mislaid it, or I should have had it when you was in town; but, if it is not to be found, I must do as well as I can with him. Indeed they have not done genteelly by you; and I was willing to be provided of it without him, for fear of like usage, for they owe no obligation to your affectionate friend and humble servant,

“ARTHUR COLLINS.”

The imposition practised upon Thoresby by the mother of Atkins cannot but have indisposed him to take up his quarters with her a second time; and he quickly found still better reason for preferring the hospitality of Collins. Proceeding to St. Paul's Church-yard on the morning after his arrival, he was surprised to find the house of Atkins “disposed of, and his shop to be let;” and next day, “with Mr. Nutt, the printer, heard yet more melancholy tidings from him and Mr. Ross about Atkins's mismanagement.” It was a serious business, for Atkins had received a large portion of the subscription money, but had not, according to agreement, advanced Thoresby £50 out of it. Moreover, he had assigned his property in the publication to Mr. Nutt, and Thoresby had a troublesome time

of it, much "uncomfortable jarring," before he could bring about a settled arrangement under this new state of affairs. Within a few days of his arrival he held a consultation upon the subject with Dr. Gibson, and had an interview with Mr. Nutt and Mr. Ross, or Rosse, but Atkins was out of the way. On the 21st of May Thoresby writes,—

"With Mr. Dale, to meet with the creditors of Mr. Atkins relating to this book: they at first seemed to be hard upon me as to my charges, &c., expecting less; but upon summing up the whole, were more easy, concluding it would heal itself."

Another money difficulty soon arose from Atkins' carelessness. Thoresby had been once "to Piccadilly, to Mr. Carpenter, the Carver's, about the draught of the Queen's Statue, which he made for Mr. Milner at Leeds, [and to] see other curious workmanship of his in marble and lead." The lead work serves further to identify Andrew Carpenter with the Charpentière of Walpole.\* A few days after the meeting of creditors, Thoresby again went to Mr. Carpenter's "about the Queen's statue, and thence to Mr. Vertue's about the engraving of it, and found a gross mistake, Mr. Atkins writing 3*l*. for what 8*l*. or 10*l*. is demanded." And this probably broke off the negotiation with Vertue. More than a fortnight later Thoresby writes,—

"At Mr. Bowles's about the Queen's statue to be engraved; bought the print of that at St. Paul's, which seems to fall short of what Mr. Milner hath nobly presented to Leeds: though wearied, yet walked afterwards to Hyde Park, to Mr. Carpenter's, who made that for Cousin Milner."

A couple of days afterward he walked "to Mr. Sturt the Engraver's, about the Queen's statue and Mr. Thoresby's monument," and the engravings of both in the Ducatus have Mr. Sturt's signature.

\* *Ante*, page 52, note.

The absconding of Atkins increased Thoresby's perplexity ; but when he had been in London a month, calling at Mr. Nutt's he was "put in hopes of Mr. Atkins's speedy arrival." On the evening of the same day he waited upon Lord Chief Justice Parker,—“who received me most kindly ; advised me as to Atkins ; presented me his lovely picture, done by Mr. Vertue, &c.” On the 15th of June, he “met with notice of Mr. Atkins's being in town,” and the next day saw him,—“at Mr. Dale's, and got his company to meet Mr. Atkins at Belvidere : he promises fair, if performance be answerable.” But the performances, as not uncommonly in such cases, were indifferent :—

19 June.—“With Mr. Atkins, had also Mr. Hood's and Mr. Dale's company, yet to no purpose, through Mr. Atkins's sottishness.”

21.—“Morning . . . walked to Mr. Atkins's lodging ; lost most of the forenoon with him, being at a sad dilemma to get the matter concluded betwixt him and Mr. Nutt, the printer, it being almost impossible to keep the one sober (at least capable of business) till the other get out of his bed.”

“23.—Then to catch Mr. Atkins in bed, else no meeting with him.

“25.—Met Atkins and others by appointment, to endeavour to compromise the matter ; but there was too much heat betwixt Mr. Dale on my behalf, and some of them that nothing could be determined ; only 29*l.* 15*s.*, which they positively asserted to be part of the copy money, appeared evidently, by the receipt itself, to be for the 7th books.”

“26.—Morning, retired ; then about the sheets printed and manuscripts, computing how much pedigree (at a guinea per sheet) and how much plain (at 15*s.*)”

“July 2.—With Mr. Nutt, who at long run yields that I may deduct the premium of 40*l.* out of the latter payment, without any deductions or account, let the event of Atkins's

concerns be what they will. Instead of 40% profit, the two journeys cost me above 50%."

At this stage of the affair Thoresby had to leave London for a few days on business of a different nature. When he consulted his friend Dr. Gibson about Atkins, he asked advice also about "Son Ralph's education at Cambridge;" and afterward dining with the Bishop of Ely he took the opportunity to consult him also about,—

"Dear son Ralph, whom he would by all means have to be of Clare Hall, for the sake of Mr. Laughton, an incomparable tutor, with whom he entrusted his own son, a hopeful gentleman who showed me several curiosities and originals in that inestimable library; his Lordship also promised to prescribe for my dear son, and advised me to wrap his knees in flannel."

On the 5th of July, Thoresby, "after a weary night, rose by three; walked to Bishopgate to take coach for Cambridge," and travelling by way of Bishop-Stortford, "over Gog-Magog's hill (upon the height whereof is an ancient and large camp with a double vallum)," at Cambridge he arrived; but "escaped a great danger in the town itself, one of the wheels of the coach being just off, and the man driving a full career, as is too usual with them."

Thoresby first called on the son of Alderman Milner, William, who within three years became Sir William Milner, Bart., but who was then a student at Jesus College;\* and after his return "was at a loss for lodging, the worthy hostess having let the room I had agreed for to another for a greater rate, this busy time of the Commencement. With a fellow-traveller, he put up at the Red Lion, kept by Mr. Reyner, a Yorkshireman. The next day he had Mr. Milner's

\* A note of Mr. Hunter's says, erroneously, it was the former Vicar of Leeds; but he died in 1702, not at Jesus College, but St. John's.

company to "the public schools and library . . . Then, at the commencement at St. Mary's" he spent seven or eight hours :—

"I went thence to visit Mr. Baker (a learned antiquary) at St. John's, whom I never saw before, though I corresponded with him many years ago.\* He entertained me most agreeably in the College Library with the sight of some valuable manuscripts, printed books, very rare, particularly two translated by their pious foundress, the Countess of Richmond, King Henry VII's mother. I was invited by Dr. Edmundson and Dr. Bennet to the commencement treat in the College Hall, which I very thankfully embraced, to see the manner of it: the Masters of Arts now commenced waiting in their hoods. Dr. Jenkins, the Master sent to invite me afterwards to his lodgings, with Dr. Edmundson, and Mr. (now Dr.) Bennet of Colchester."

He had intended returning to Town on the third day (Wednesday), but it was Friday before a seat in the coach was at liberty for him. In the meantime, he dined at Jesus College with Mr. Milner and Mr. Milner's Tutor, Mr. Warren; at Trinity College he visited Dr. Colbatch, Casuistical Professor of Divinity, who after prayers in "the delicate chapel"† took him to "the stately library," where he also enjoyed the company of its librarian Mr. Claget, and constrained him "to sup with him in the College Hall." And at Trinity, Thoresby also visited its famous Master, his all but Fellow-Townsman, Dr. Bentley.‡ It was the critical point in Dr. Bentley's career when the long warfare between him and the Fellows

\* Ante, page 166, note. The letters from Mr. Baker to Thoresby published in the Correspondence are dated in 1710.

† At "King's College Chapel," he writes, "I got little benefit by the prayers, because of the music and noble architecture, which too much diverted my thoughts."

‡ Born at Oulton, near Leeds, on the 27th of January 1662. Thoresby says in his *Review* for 1699,—“Dr. Bentley, being now in his native country, was obliged by the famous Mr. Evelyn to give me a visit at Leeds.”



of Trinity had ended in a six weeks' hearing at Ely House before the Bishop, as Visitor; and Bentley, under apprehension of an adverse result, awaited his judgement. Thoresby had heard a portion of the proceedings. He relates on the 17th of May in this year, 1714,—

“I waited upon the Bishop of Ely, and unexpectedly found him sitting upon the cause betwixt Dr. Bentley (the Master) and the Fellows of Trinity College, Cambridge. I was concerned to hear the opposite counsel cast some harsh reflections upon the Doctor as too imperious, and putting the College to needless expense, though confessedly for the ornament, if not necessary repairs of what he hath no private advantage [in].”

Thoresby left Cambridge with the business which took him there undecided. On quitting the Master of Trinity he went to Clare Hall,—

“To visit and consult the famous pupil-monger, Mr. Laughton, to whom I was recommended by the Bishop of Ely; and after at Queen's College, with the ingenious Mr. Langwith (a native of York) recommended by Mr. Baker of St. John's, and preferred rather than any of his own college. The Lord direct me in this matter of so great concern to the temporal and eternal interest of my son Ralph. Whether Clare Hall or Queen's College, I cannot determine, but look up to thee to whom future things are present.”

Eventually the decision fell on Queen's College and Mr. Langwith.

The morning after his return from Cambridge to London Thoresby went to Mr. Nutt's, and in the afternoon inquired after the Leeds coach, but found it taken up for a fortnight. Nor was he yet ready for it. Another week passed before he arrived at a settlement with his printers and publishers:—

“July 13.—Morning, walked to Durham Court to Mr. Atkins; called at Mr. Nutt's, found nothing done. . . . I was with Atkins, and found another intrigue I suspect is

roguish, he denying the thirty copies I am to have, till I prove it under his own hand."

"15.—Morning, perusing papers till noon; after dinner walked to Mr. Boulter's, to get his assistance, to conclude, if possible, the affair with Mr. Atkins and Mr. Nutt, but found very strange, or rather downright unjust practices, denying 30*l.* till I proved it under his hand, &c."

"16.—Morning, went to Mr. Cookson's, found Atkins' receipt for 10*l.*, which will help to bear charges; thence to visit Mr. Preston, and found there had been a lamentable fire last night in that neighbourhood, near forty houses burnt . . . afterwards accounting with Mr. Atkins by ourselves alone, he was somewhat better conditioned, and confessed his errors, acknowledged the thirty books and 10*l.* (towards charges)."

"17.—Afternoon, with Mr. Nutt and Mr. Atkins, who were more inclined to peace and justice; so that we came to a conclusion, and subscribed the accounts and papers."

This vexation was thus brought to an end, and on the previous day Thoresby had ventured to engage a seat in the coach for Leeds, paying 4*l.* for himself and "the Hunslet family," some of the Fentons. But Mr. Boulter again proved his friendship. Meeting him in St. James's Park as he returned from Petty France (where he had been procuring franks from Sir Bryan Stapleton), Mr. Boulter, says Thoresby,—  
"called me to his chambers, and having now fixed upon his journey, kindly invited me to accompany him in his coach to Yorkshire." Hereupon, Thoresby obtained the return of his fare, minus ten shillings, a profitable transaction for the proprietors; as when afterward he went to secure the place for a friend, it was "in vain."

He had before this made excursions about London, as on his former visit, in Mr. Boulter's company:—

"We went by water to Fox-hall and the Spring Garden: I was surprised with so many pleasant walks, &c., so near

London. After dinner there, we viewed the pottery and various apartments there; was most pleased with that where they were painting divers colours, which yet appear more beautiful, and of different colours when baked."

Another day they went eastward:—

"Called upon by Mr. Boulter; coached it to the Tower; then took boat; coasted by St. Catherine's, Wapping, Shadwell, Radeliff, Limehouse, Poplar, and down to Blackwall, where we had a view of the turn of the River Thames; we called at the Isle of Dogs, to see the skeleton of a whale, forty-eight yards long and thirty-five round." They landed at Greenwich, "and viewed first the new church, now building, which is a most noble one, with pillars in the front, like that of Covent Garden, but much more stately: the old steeple remains, but the church fell down in the morning, in the evening of which same day was to have been a sermon preparatory to the Sacrament, whereby the watchful Providence of a merciful God preserved the lives of his servants."\*

It appears from the next paragraph that when Thoresby in his youth was taken to London, by his Father, they visited Greenwich together:—

"We walked into the Park, which is most pleasant, to the Astronomical House upon the height of all, the inscription whereof I took in my dearest Father's company, Anno 1677."

They missed seeing Dr. Flamstead, the first Astronomer Royal, as he had gone to London; but viewed the Hospital, and its hall with the painted ceiling by Thornhill; on which Thoresby noted, amongst the Astronomers, "Dr. Flamstead, with the scheme of an almost total eclipse of the sun, bearing the date April 22, 1715." This, then, was painted before the

\*The roof of the old church of St. Alphege at Greenwich fell in about midnight, 28th Nov. 1710. Upon a petition of the inhabitants, the new church was made one of Fifty churches in the neighbourhood of the Metropolis, built under an Act of the 9th year of Queen Anne. *Hasted's Kent*.

eclipse took place, as it did on the date given.\* Returning by water as far as Deptford, where another new church was building, they were entertained by the clergyman, Mr. Sherlock, meeting also by appointment another clergyman Mr. Worster, of the neighbouring parish of Lewisham. They had been Thoresby's fellow-travellers in the coach from Cambridge, together with Mr. Loader, who had raised in the burial ground of the old Church of Deptford,—

“The finest charnel-house that ever I beheld, and had laid a kind obligation upon Mr. Sherlock not to deliver me the fragment of the Royal Escape (a small fishing-smack, wherein King Charles the Second, after his miraculous deliverance at Boscobel, escaped beyond sea, which is now repairing at Deptford by public order) till I visited him at his pleasant habitation.† The gardens are surprisingly fine and large; there are of the said Mr. Thornhill's paintings in the Bagnio, and other garden-houses; for there are many of them, and of various forms, in the gardens, which contain six acres of ground.

\* Sir James Thornhill undertook the painting of the Hall in 1708. It was not finished until 1727. There is an account of the eclipse in No. 343 of Philosophical Transactions, by Dr. Halley, who observed it from Crane Court by order of the Royal Society. Since the year 1140 he states, “I cannot find that there has been such a thing as a Total Eclipse of the Sun seen at London.” This must have enhanced the general interest in the phenomenon, and there is a curious reference to it in the postscript of a letter written to Thoresby eight days after the eclipse occurred by Mr. Newman, Secretary to the Christian Knowledge Society:—“How was the eclipse with you? If it were well observed? You have it in the newspapers as it was observed by the Royal Society. The French King declines apace, and wagers are laid upon Change that he will not live a month longer. Whether they attribute any influence to the eclipse on a man that has arrogated the sun for his device, I do not know; but if his death should soon follow it, it will, at least, be thought to have been ominous by some people.” Louis XIV died on the 1st of September (New Style) in the same year.

† This relic is inserted in the Appendix to his Museum Catalogue. Isaac Loader, High Sheriff of Kent in 1701, subscribed no less than £901 towards the building and ornamenting of the new Church of St. Nicholas at Deptford, when the old one, town excepted, was pulled down to make way for a larger. The said sum included £194 for the Charnel-House which Thoresby mentions. Pulling down the old church commenced in 1697, and the new one is said to have been so badly built that £400 had to be spent in repairing it in 1716. Yet Thoresby says the new church was still building at the time of his visiting Deptford in 1714.

He showed me some Roman coins, of Antoninus Pius, &c., and urns, dug up in the gardens, and gave me a fragment of one: the grotto is entertaining, made of his own cinders (when anchor-smith to King William and Queen Mary) intermixed with plenty of curious and larger shells, the *auris marina*, and other productions of the sea. Discourse upon the Royal Escape occasioned another, of King Charles the First, which I had a mind to hear from the daughter of the party immediately concerned. Mr. Worster accompanied me to her, who told the history, with many circumstances, the chief whereof are, that her mother, Mary Bailey of Deptford, after she had been twelve year's blind by the King's Evil, was miraculously cured by a handkerchief, dipped in the blood of King Charles the First: the attested narrative is to be reprinted shortly by Mr. Watts of London. After a very courteous entertainment by Mr. Loader, we returned, late enough, by water, but had a good voyage:”

Another day,—

“Mr. Boulter called, and took me in his coach to Hampstead, where we dined with his mother; and after viewing that pleasant town, and taking a view of the country from the hill beyond it, we took a tour to Highgate, Mussel Hill, and other country villages, and a pleasant country, and returned by Islington and Newington home again.”

Thoresby again attended meetings of the Royal Society, and of the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge, at one of which resolutions were passed for printing the Bible in Welsh. He was also at the annual Feast of the latter Society, after hearing the Charity Children's service at St. Paul's, where Robinson, in the previous year made Bishop of London, preached the sermon, and Smalridge, his successor in the See of Bristol, read the prayers.\* Both bishops were at the

\* Bishop Robinson, prior to his elevation to the See of Bristol, had been Envoy for about thirty years to Charles XII of Sweden, and Burnet gives his character of that King verbatim. In 1711 he was made Lord Privy Seal, being the only Ecclesiastic who has held that office since the reign of Henry the Eighth, and he was made one of the Plenipotentiaries for the Treaty of Utrecht, Commissioners discharging his duties as Lord Privy Seal during his absence. He held the office until 1713, the year in which he was translated from Bristol to London. He had also been Dean of Windsor.

Society's Feast, together with the Bishop of Chichester (Dr. Manningham, formerly Dean of Windsor). The King of Prussia's agent, Sir Richard Hoare, and Thoresby's friend Nelson were also there, but he says,—

"I sat betwixt two friends, Justice Chamberlayne\* and Mr. Shute the Treasurers, that made me very easy, though most of the company from various parts of England and Wales were strangers to me. It seemed to me like the primitive Agapæ, or Love Feasts, before corrupted."

He maintained his personal acquaintance with the Episcopal Bench. Nicholson, Bishop of Carlisle was in Town, and introduced Thoresby to Archbishop Sharp's successor in the Metropolitan See of York, Sir William Dawes, Bart., translated from Chester. Through Bishop Nicholson he also had a sight of the Records of the House of Lords, from the time of Henry the Seventh; and,—

"I saw also the dead warrant, subscribed by Bradshaw, Grey (father to the Earl of Stamford), Oliver Cromwell, and too many others, for the execution of King Charles the First, Jan. 30, 1648, (O.S.) together with the original trial; for which the land yet mourns; it was not subscribed by General Fairfax, as has been pretended. Lord lay not that grievous sin to the charge of the innocent posterity of any that did, who justly abhor it!"

Upon the Bishop of Gloucester Thoresby called on the fourth day after his arrival, and had a kind reception. It appears from the following that the Bishop was uncle to the then Lecturer at the Parish Church of Leeds, Joseph Cookson, M.A. :—

"Walked to Chelsea, to visit the good old Bishop of Gloucester, who very gladly received me; found there also his son Fowler, and nephew Cookson (our Lecturer), whom he hath

\* He was Justice of Peace.

preferred to a living of 150*l.* per annum in that diocess.\* When I durst not promise to go again and dine with his Lordship and stay longer, he importuned me affectionately, 'For,' saith my Lord, 'I love such as you.'"

Thoresby was several times at the Bishop of Ely's, and on Sunday the 6th of June received the Sacrament at his hands; after which he would not remain to dinner, even there, "nor go to Mr. Fairfax's (the Parliament-man) but came home." But on the 15th, he "dined at the Bishop of Ely's; saw some rarities in his valuable library; was much obliged to his son, Mr. Dan Moore;" and dined again with his Lordship on that day week, "with much good company." On the last day of the month he was at the Bishop's, with Mr. Moore and Mr. Laughton, of Clare Hall, Cambridge; and again, two days later, just before his Cambridge journey. At Ely House on the 23rd of July he was "much troubled to find the good Bishop so weak." It is said that the Bishop took cold during the long sittings in his Hall upon the Bentley case; and on the last day of July he died,—

"This day, my good old friend the Bishop of Ely departed this life, which is a public loss to the Church of God, as well as private disappointment to me, in respect of his interest in the College."†

Thus another of the subscribers to the *Ducatus* died before its publication; and on the 26th of the next month the death of the Bishop of Gloucester followed. It is not, however, until the 11th of September, apparently reminded by a call which he had been making on the Bishop of Ely's widow, that Thoresby mentions it in his Diary,—

\* This explains "our common relation, Cousin Cookson," *Ante*, page 200, who was elder brother of the Lecturer.

† His death at this time, with his judgment on the Trinity College case undelivered, is held to have been fortunate for Bentley, who afterward came to an understanding with his accusers.

"I forgot to note that have lately lost another affectionate friend, the pious and very aged Bishop of Gloucester, who was buried at Hendon, on Wednesday was sevennight."

Thoresby's acquaintance with the Bishop of Salisbury (Burnet), dating from an introduction by Archbishop Sharp in 1699, did not run so smoothly. Within a fortnight from his arrival in Town he relates,—

"Visited the Bishop of Sarum, who surprised me with the relation of a very unjust censure that had passed upon me, which he expressed much concern for till he perceived the falseness thereof."

It was only temporarily that the Bishop's ill impression was allayed; and the next account is not calculated to heighten confidence in the Historian of his own Times:—

"13 July.—I called at the Bishop of Sarum's and was extremely concerned at the unjust, as well as uncharitable censure that some had passed upon me; and his Lordship was too credulous in believing that I was become a rank Tory, denied salvation to any out of the Church of England, and was a violent prosecutor of the Dissenters, and other abominable untruths, contrary to my real judgement and practice, who hate persecution, yet he would not hear my defence. I was much troubled till I met with good old Mr. Strype, who told me it was his Lordship's blind side, and that there are many instances of his too great easiness in receiving false rumours; that himself lay under his unjust displeasure for a long time."

In curious contrast with this is an entry a month earlier in date:—

"Evening, with Mr. Dale and Mr. Gale; fell into a dispute about religion that had no effect but to exasperate one another's spirits; their reflections upon the Dissenters first, and after, upon such as I esteem the most pious and orthodox part of the Established Church (as snap-jacks, &c. for prayer before sermon) being very disagreeable, especially when some in company (who had denied there was any true worship of God amongst the Presbyterians) owned there was in the Papists."



Surely to none more than to Thoresby are the lines applicable that Pope wrote a few years later,—

“In moderation placing all my glory,  
While Tories call me Whig, and Whigs a Tory.”

So little did he merit the character which Bishop Burnet assigned to him, that during this same visit to London he added attendance at Dissenter's services to his frequent attendance upon the services of the Church; and while maintaining, and extending, personal intimacy with the Clergy, he did not cast off old friendships with Nonconformist Ministers. One Sunday he went with “Cousin Peters” to Kensington, when,—

“The Bishop of Bath and Wells (Dr. Hooper) preached excellently from John ii, from that of our Saviour to his mother, Woman &c., very well observing the arrogance of the Papists in adoring the Virgin; and also (from the text itself) the folly of such who pretend to know more of God than himself hath revealed; supposed in reproof of Dr. Clarke, of St. James's,\* suspected of Arianism. Afternoon, Mr. Wotton, chaplain to the Countess of Winchelsea, discoursed excellently of the Divine Love; I was much pleased. Dined with him at Cousin Hough's, who is much better of the hyps.”

On Sunday the 27th of June, he walked to Hackney, reading Bishop Bull's Pious Companion, &c.,—

“Forenoon, Mr. Newcome, jun., preached. Afternoon, Mr. Carter (Assistant to my friend Mr. Strype, whom I missed of). I dined with the most obliging and pious Mr. Doulines [now Sir Daniel], who told me of the death of my dear friend the Reverend and excellent Mr. Matthew Henry (who preached on Monday last, and died on Tuesday), which surprised and afflicted me much for his family's sake, my own, but especially the church of God wherein he was singularly useful.”

\* Memoirs of Dr. Samuel Clarke, author of a number of printed treatises both theological and philosophical, were written by Dr. Whiston, whose name ranks first in his day in association with the above class of opinion.

Another Sunday,—

“Mr. Elstob preached very well, &c. I dined with the learned author and his ingenious sister, who besides the Saxon Homily (to which I have subscribed) hath in the press also a Saxon Grammar.”

The next Sunday,—

“Walked to Dr. Williams’ meeting-place,\* without Bishopgate, to hear Mr. Boyse preach, but was too late at that remote place, he having taken his text, but preached concerning the Roman Antichrist; comforting sincere believers that the 1,260 years are, by the most judicious interpreters, thought to be near expiring; I dined with him and relations at Mr. Fair’s.† Afternoon, he preached from that of the Apostle to the elect lady, rejoicing to see her children walking in the truth; which he applied, both in reference to the Schism bill, and of such as desert the ways of their pious ancestors, which I was not over fond of, being, I fear, by the generality of the auditory, applied to matters of indifference and less consequence, wherein good men may and frequently do vary, the essentials of religion not being therein concerned.”‡

\* It was in the year but one following that Dr. Daniel Williams died, leaving for the use of the public, with £1,600 a year endowment, the library which, augmented by other benefactors, still bears his name. He was born in Wrexham.

† Mr. John Faire, of Queen Street, Cheapside, London, married Tabitha Fenton, of Hunslet, Leeds, whose mother was sister to Mrs. Joseph Boyse, and to Thoresby’s partner in the unlucky oil mill, Samuel Ibbetson. Thoresby, in the Appendix to the Ducatus, describes Mr. Faire as an Apothecary and “eminent Chymist, who prepareth the true *Antiscorbutic Elixir*, which hath been administered 30 years with admirable Success.” He presented Thoresby with a box of it; also “a sapphire of his own making, by additional inventions to Mr. Boyle’s,” and an emerald and an amethyst. These artificial gems are also mentioned in the Appendix, and there said to be “not easily distinguish’d from true gems, when set in gold.”

‡ Boyse preached this sermon about a fortnight after the Royal Assent had been given to an “Act to prevent the growth of Schism; and for the further security of the Churches of England and Ireland, as by Law Established.” The Bill had been introduced by Sir William Wyndham, Chancellor of the Exchequer; it had a long string of amendments before becoming law, and, under the changes produced by the Queen’s death soon afterward, it remained practically a dead letter until repealed in 1718. It was mainly directed against Dissenting Academies.

Possibly Thoresby had some suspicion that his old friend Boyse was taking the opportunity to discourse at him from the pulpit.

He was frequently at Salter's Hall (in fact was returning thence when Burnet was so severe upon him), and there he heard Dr. Williams preach against apostacy and Popery; the popular Bradbury, who drew a congregation "so crowded as is scarce credible;" and Dr. Calamy, whom he also visited, having apparently conceived him to be in some measure responsible for Burnet's delusion,—“visited Dr. Calamy, who acquitted himself from the false imputation that the Bishop of Sarum had received of me, but owned I had many enemies.” He commends Calamy's sermons, saying “he preached excellently;” and on one occasion makes this somewhat notable addition,—“He also prayed very well, and, which I must own pleased me, concluded with the Lord's Prayer.” If this were so unusual as to elicit particular notice, we are led to infer that the Nonconformists at that time were so resolute against everything liturgical, as to refuse the Lord's Prayer itself, in conclusion of their extemporaneous addresses.

While Thoresby thus practically refuted the allegation of intolerance towards Nonconformists, even his friendship with Dr. Hicks did not reconcile him to the services of the Non-jurors. Of this, a slight incident is significant,—

“To visit Mr. Nelson, and the learned Dr. Hicks, who not being at liberty of half-an-hour I had the benefit of the prayers in the adjoining church, and *when his non-juring conventical was over* I visited the said Dean, who is said to be Bishop of . . . .”

Of where he learned on a future occasion:—

“20 June.—I visited the learned Dr. Hicks, who this day is entered upon his 73d. year. I learned from Mr. Bennet, of Colchester, that his title is suffragan of Thetford, in the

bishoprick of Norwich; for it being death by the present laws to confer or receive episcopal ordination without the Sovereign's authority, the non-juring bishops supplied the defects of the vacant bishopricks, by ordaining suffragan bishops, who have power of ordination, &c. as well as bishops themselves."

On the other hand Thoresby abhorred Latitudinarian views; and on calling upon "Cousin Sagar," son of the old Nonconformist Minister at Wakefield, "was concerned to find him an admirer of Whiston." The son, as well as the father, is styled V.D.M. in a Pedigree in the *Ducatus*, but Mr. Hunter states that he had conformed, and received some church preferment at Salisbury.

Thoresby had not failed to carry with him the "travelling Album" in which he collected autographs. At the Earl of Pembroke's, Mr. Arundel of Trerice, son of the Countess\* by a former husband wrote in it; at the Royal Society, Dr. Bentley inserted his Motto; and at Mr. Chamberlayn's in Petty France, one of the Treasurers of the Christian Knowledge Society, it was honoured by the name, motto and seals of His Excellency Seignor Bentura de Zari, Ambassador from the Emperor of Morocco, "a very courteous and comely person," who wrote in the Armenian character; by Sir John, now Lord, Percival also, and Mr. Bellers, an eminent quaker, who presented me (as well as my Lord Ambassador) with his essay towards the Improvement of Physic."† The Ambassador afterward presented him with the coins thus detailed in the Appendix of this *Ducatus*:—

\* This was the second wife of the Earl, the daughter of Sir Thomas Slingsby, Bart., of Scriven, Yorkshire, who had twice before married; first to Sir Richard Mauleverer, Bart., and secondly to Lord Arundel of Trerise. The Earl outlived her, and himself married a third time.

† Then newly published,—“An Essay towards the Improvement of Physic, in twelve Books, with an Essay for employing the Poor:” London, 1714, 4to. Its author, John Bellers, wrote other publications relating to Social and Political Economy, one of the latest being an “Abstract of George Fox's Advice and Warning to the Magistrates, concerning the Poor:” London, 1724.

A Blankelio of Morocco "(32 of which make an English Crown). An Algerine Asper (a thin oblong square) and very fair Turkish Parra of the present Grand Seignior, of the new Mint; forty of which make one of their Crowns. Also two Pieces of Copper Monies of Barbary, and the Spanish Plantations; of the former of which Twenty four make a Blankelio, as 256 of the Chaws do a Spanish Crown."

Mr. Chamberlayn was not only an active member of the Christian Knowledge Society, he had been one of the founders of its offspring, that for the Propagation of the Gospel; and Thoresby speaks of meeting at his house, "as usual, with much learned company, but near half a score foreigners." Another day, when he again met the representative of the Morocco Emperor, he mentions also Mr. Jones, the Ambassadors Interpreter; and the Bishop of Bangor, John Evans, who was translated to Meath in the following year, and then succeeded by Hoadley. During his London visit in 1712, Thoresby had seen Mr. Chamberlayn's "collection of Bibles, and the Lord's Prayer, which he hopes to publish in 200 languages."\* Now,—

"My friend showed me the specimen lately received from beyond sea, of his noble design of the edition of the Lord's Prayer, in two hundred languages: this is engraved in a copperplate, in the Chinese character, with the interpretation."

Thoresby further alludes to this in the Ducatus in a list of his various editions of the Bible, and there says that his "honoured friend John Chamberlayn, Esq., F.R.S.," was in every way qualified for the work by "his great Knowledge in many Languages (evident in his curious Tract of the *Genius* and *Potestas* of the English Tongue"—*Lettre á un Gentilhomme Allemand touchant le Genie et la Force de la Langue Anglaise*. 4to. 1708.

\* Thoresby met at that time,—"two learned foreigners, Seignor M. Hegard, a Swede, professor of the Greek tongue at London, in those parts, and Seignor Vander Eyken, converted from a Monk by the cruelties he observed in their inquisitions.'

The Earl of Pembroke invited Thoresby to dinner, and enforced his invitation by a threat not to show the additions which he had made to his collection of coins, &c., unless it were accepted. Thoresby says of them,—

“Of the extras relating to our own nation, the most extraordinary was of Perkin Warbeck, with Mene Tekel, the year of his landing, &c.; some rare obsidional pieces, and of the plantations, a second and third of New England, to which place also his Lordship ascribes that with N. E. in my collection;” described in the Catalogue,—“a round Plate of Silver, hath nothing but XII stamped at the Edge of one Side, and N. E. at the contrary Edge of the other.”

He had thought it to be perhaps of Charles the First’s Newark Coinage, “before the Lozenge Money.” At Gresham College, Dr. Woodward showed him “several valuable curiosities and antiquities;” Mr. St. John, at Plasterers’ Hall,—

“Showed me his collections of natural curiosities, formed stones, &c.; but I was best pleased with his Roman coins, of which he had some very rare; and he was so kind as to present to me a Diudumenianus, of whom I had not one before,\* and would have me dine with him.”

And we have the following interesting notice of a visit to Bloomsbury, perhaps to the Countess of Winchelsea’s Chaplain, whom he heard preach,—

“To Bloomsbury, to Mr. Wotton’s, who showed me several curiosities, and gave me some, particularly a small shred of the silk shroud of King Edward the Confessor, cut off when the coffin was accidentally broke (by fall of a pole) at the coronation of King James the Second, from whom was taken a gold chain and crucifix (taken out of the coffin at the same time) when he was rifled at his abdication. I transcribed a Privy Seal of King Edward [the Fourth] ‘Rauff Thorysby,’ for his service at Barnetfield.”

\* Vol. I, page 400.

The Ducatus (Appendix) also mentions in addition, as the gift of James Wotton, "one of the small tessellated gilded Dice of King *Edward* the *Confessor's* Tomb, when part of it was accidentally broken at the Coronation of King *James* II.," and a fragment "of the Head band, curiously twisted with Gold." Thoresby met his "old friend Dr. Sloane, at the coffee-house of Mr. Miers, who hath a handsome collection of curiosities in the room where the virtuosi meet." His friend Le Neve again entertained him at the Herald's Office, where Thoresby "transcribed some things relating to Leeds, from some manuscripts he lately purchased;" and he had not been long in London before he was "with worthy Mr. Strype, and subscribed to his *Memoirs of Archbishop Whitgift*."\* He afterward lent to Strype a letter subscribed by Whitgift and the "rest of Queen Elizabeth's Privy Council."

On the 25th of May Thoresby "saw the public entrance of the Ambassador from the King of Sicily, in her Majesty's royal coach, his own coach of state, with about forty of the nobility and gentry, each with six horses."

On the 27th of July he "met the solemn funeral of the late Lord Chief Baron Ward, whose corpse was to be carried to Northamptonshire, near Oundle." But more momentous than either, the end of the Stuart sovereignty and the succession of the House of Hanover took place during his stay in London at this time. In his Diary are these notices of this historical crisis:—

"June 5.—At Church, the Princess Sophia was omitted, news having arrived yesterday that the said pious and most excellent Princess died suddenly of an apoplexy, in the eighty fourth year of her age." †

\* Published in 1718, in Folio, at 60s.

† It was on the Thursday week before, that the Electress of Hanover suddenly fell into the arms of Princess Caroline of Anspach and the Countess of Pickenbourg, and died, in the gardens of Herrenhausen.

"6 Die Dom.—I was at the evening prayers at St. Dunstan's; rejoiced that the Elector of Hanover was publicly inserted in the prayers."

"July 30.—Was sadly surprised with the lamentable news of the Queen's death, who was seized with an apoplectic fit in the night, and was speechless three hours, and thought to be dead, but was, by Dr. Mead's cupping, &c., brought to her speech. She continued very weak, and was frequently reported to be dead, to the great terror of all good men of whatever denomination, as expecting nothing but confusion, and the effusion of much Christian blood before the matter can be brought into the former state, by reason of the absence of the Elector of Brunswick, and the dreaded invasion of the Pretender with an army of French and Irish. I was deeply concerned at this matter, and so were most persons, as was evident by their very countenances. The Lords of the Council sent to the Lord Mayor, &c., to take special care of the City; the trained bands were immediately raised, and a triple guard sent to the Tower."

"31.—Morning, very solicitous about Her Majesty, who some say is much better, and others that she died at eleven; but most fear that a few hours will terminate her life, upon which the fate of this sinful Kingdom seems to depend. She was living, and prayed for at St. Paul's this afternoon; and no certainty of its being otherwise at eleven at night."

This was the day on which Thoresby had to lament for the Bishop of Ely's death, and he adds,—“But the public concerns of the nation drown all others.” Queen Anne died early the next morning, Sunday; the Privy Council forthwith assembled, issued orders for the Proclamation of George the First, and for the consequent changes in the Liturgy.

"Aug. 1.—Walked to the West-end of the town, designing for my friend Mr. Chamberlayn, who being in waiting, was most likely to give certain intelligence concerning her Majesty; but at Mr. Boulter's met with a message from the Duke of Ormond that she died at forty minutes past seven. Then



walked a little farther to hear Dr. Calamy. . . . Dined at Madam Boulter's, because she was angry that I had not visited her before, and then walked with Mr. Boulter to Mr. Woodrove's, to see the solemnity of the Proclamation of the new King; it was mightily to the satisfaction of all people, that there was not only the chief ministers of State (Lord Chancellor, Treasurer, &c.) and Lord Mayor, Alderman and Sheriffs of London, but the greatest concourse of the nobility in their coaches that was ever known, with the Bishop of London, &c., of the Clergy. Blessed be God for so promising a token of good to this nation!"

"2.—At the prayers at St. Dunstan's, where King George was prayed for: the Lord make his reign long and prosperous to these nations! Writing till noon, when visited by Mr. Wainwright, with news of the Duke of Marlborough's arrival, which was agreeable, because of a supposed descent of the Pretender, with a force of French and Irish."

"Morning, at the printer's correcting a sheet; rest of the day proceeding in my work, till interrupted by Atkins, who was drunk in passion as well as liquor. This afternoon the Duke of Marlborough returned from beyond sea, passed through the city in great state, attended by many hundreds of gentlemen on horseback, and several of the nobility in their coaches, the trained bands, &c. attending."\*

"19.—Morning, walked to Westminster, to see the Royal Vault, where the late Queen's Corpse is to be deposited; but there being such crowds, I spent two hours in viewing the monuments, and transcribing some of them I had not seen before; as the Marquis of Halifax and his daughter-in-law, &c.; and after got in, not without difficulty: it was afflicting to see the silent remains of the great monarchs King Charles the Second, King William and Queen Mary, and Prince George, next whom remains only one space to be filled with her late Majesty Queen Anne, where her bowels are already deposited,

\* Marlborough went abroad after the accession of the Harley Ministry, and had been living at Antwerp. On the 24th of September he was appointed Captain General of His Majesty's Land Forces.

in a little box, as the rest, covered with velvet, and adorned with silver plates, nails, hesps, gilt, &c.: this sight was the more affecting to me, because, when young, I saw in one balcony six of them, that afterwards were Kings and Queens of Great Britain, all brisk and hearty, but now all entered upon a boundless eternity. There were then present King Charles and Queen Katherine, the Duke of York, Prince and Princess of Orange, and Princess Anne.” \*

“Sep. 18.—Afternoon with Mr. Boulter, rejoicing at the King’s safe arrival; upon which illuminations.” †

“20.—Wrote till eleven: save when called down in time to see the King’s Horse-Guards march by, for Greenwich; they make a most noble appearance, and some of the nobility splendidly attired . . . then walked to see the several trades and companies with their banners, the charity children in particular stands in St. Paul’s Churchyard; the streets crowded with innumerable spectators; the balconies hung with tapestry, and filled with ladies, &c.; then by my friend Mr. Toll’s help, got a pure stand among the Grocers’ Company, where had a fair view of the cavalcade when His Majesty, King George, made his public entry through the city, which was most splendid and magnificent above expression, the nobility even burdened with gold and silver embroidery. We counted above two hundred and six coaches, though there were frequently two lords in one coach, besides the Bishops and Judges, &c. of all which see the printed ceremonial; at last came the most blessed sight of a Protestant King and Prince (whom I had a full view of) attended with the loud acclamations of the people; after all followed the Guards. It was above three hours from the beginning to the end of the procession; the conduit ran Wine. I afterwards walked with Cousin Wilson to their feast at Cook’s-hall; their own (the

\* Vol. I, page 57. The Funeral took place at night on the 24th of August, when Thoresby’s friend Le Neve, as Norroy King-at-Arms, carried the Crown upon a cushion.

† George I, with the Prince of Wales, afterward George II, landed on Saturday evening, 18 September, at Greenwich, and remained there until Monday morning.

Grocers') being let to the Bank of England; after supper saw the fire-works, drank one pint of canary, and returned: heard of no damage, blessed be God!"

Scenes were soon to follow opposed to the one just described; and among Thoresby's visitors next day was Dr. Knightly Chetwood, made Archdeacon of York soon after the Revolution, and in 1710 Dean of Gloucester, who in May 1715 made a speech, afterward published, in the Lower House of Convocation, against the Anti-Hanoverian riots which had then taken place in London, to the cry of "High Church and Ormond!"

But with the Sunday following King George's entry into London, there occurs a blank of four years in Thoresby's Diary, and his *Review* does not supply it. His information fails on the eve, almost, of the completion of his great publication. Indications that his work was near its close are not, howsoever, wanting. He speaks of the finishing of the sheets of coins and antiquities inserted near the beginning and at the end of the Museum Catalogue. The engravers name, Edwards, is not upon them, nor is it to be found in Walpole. Besides practising the engraver's art he was clerk at Mary-le-bone, "commonly, but corruptly called Marrow-bone" says Thoresby, and the way to it differed in character from the way now:—

"After seven at night I walked out of town to Mr. Edwards', at St. Mary le Bon; returned late enough to London, but in an agreeable solitude, singing psalms in the silent fields."

On another occasion, he "wrote some epitaphs while Mr. Edwards, the Clerk, had dined." The two plates which Edwards engraved do him credit. The last illustration of the *Ducatus Leodiensis* is in the Appendix which follows the Museum Catalogue, and concludes the volume. It is a plate of Arms and Quarterings of the Danby family "as they formerly appeared

in the Parish Church of Leeds, though now consumed by age." It was the gift of Abstrupus Danby, Kt., J.P., Deputy-Lieutenant for the North Riding of Yorkshire, Lord of the Manor of Farnley, and nephew of the Thomas Danby nominated Mayor of Leeds in its second Charter of Incorporation.\* Sir Abstrupus also gave Thoresby access to a number of Deeds and Manuscripts, as mentioned in the Appendix; and to these courtesies, which manifestly occurred near the finishing of the *Ducatus*, there is repeated allusion before the Diary breaks off as aforesaid. There was one day which, to Thoresby, must have been particularly enjoyable. With Mr. Dale of the Herald's Office he called upon Mr. Bryan Fairfax; then at the Lord Treasurer's (Harley's) library, where its keeper, Humphrey Wanley, showed them some of its treasures; then on Nicholson, the Bishop of Carlisle, and finally on,—

"Sir Abstrupus Danby, who entertained us most generously, and (which I valued even above the Palm-wine) most agreeably with many ancient writings (which we collated with the transcripts), and many volumes of his transcripts, of Mr. Dodsworth's manuscripts, and other valuable records and manuscripts, at Oxford, London."

Thoresby also mentions calling on Mr. Pingo's the engraver's, whose name, T. Pingo, is upon Sir Abstrupus's plate of Armorial bearings, being thereby rescued from oblivion; for although Walpole transcribed it from the manuscript of Vertue, it is only given in association with this one work.

Finally, Thoresby tells of his labours upon "the tedious Index," which he completed on the day when Mr. James St. John, at Plasterer's Hall, presented him with the rare coin of the Roman Emperor Diudumenianus; and this gift is inserted among the very latest intelligence winding up the Appendix,

\* Vol. I, page 50 and note.

after the relation of a series of unusual accidents which kept Thoresby at work till almost dark a couple of days after finishing his index. On the 25th of September he writes,—

“At the press; then writing till noon at Mr. Sturt’s, but meeting Mr. Boulter, he obliged me to dine with him, which cost the rest of the day; missed of the Honourable Mr. Molesworth, who made me a visit and left some valuable antiquities.”

These were some ancient coins which had recently been found at Cadiz, in the course of some public works ordered by the King of Spain, and they came just in time for record, with the name of the donor, along with the Diudumenianus at the finish of Thoresby’s book. With the next day, Sunday, this portion of the Diary ends, but it is evident that the work of printing was near its end too; and at length, in the year 1715, the Ducatus Leodiensis was ready for its subscribers, and for the public.

The subscribers numbered three hundred and seven. Fourteen of these were for copies on Royal Paper:—Archbishop Sharpe and Bishop Nicholson of Carlisle; Lord Chief Justice Parker; the Earl of Pembroke and Montgomery; Edward Machel, Viscount Irwin, of Temple Newsome, and two of his brothers, the Honourables Arthur and Henry Ingram; Madam Savile, of Methley; The Honourable Robert Molesworth, late Envoy to the King of Denmark, F.R.S.; John Hare, Richmond Herald; Robert Nelson, F.R.S.; Samuel Gale, Wm. Wombwell, of Wombwell; Samuel Molyneux, of Dublin, and Sir Henry Pierce, of Tristernaugh.

The Subscription List for ordinary copies is one upon which Thoresby might well look with satisfaction. It includes no less than five of the Fairfaxes,—Thomas the 6th Lord Fairfax; his uncle, The Honourable Barwick Fairfax; Bryan Fairfax, of Westminster; Vice-Admiral Robert Fairfax, of Steeton,

and the Rev. Thos. Fairfax. Then there are the Earl, and the Countess-Dowager of Burlington; Lady Howard, of Worksop, Mother of the Duke of Norfolk; Lady Elizabeth Hastings; Isabella, Viscountess-Dowager Irwin; and the famous Lord Chancellor Somers, Baron of Evesham. There were also The Honourable Sir Thos. Bury, one of the Barons of the Exchequer; The Honourable John Molesworth, late Envoy to the Grand Duke of Tuscany; The Honourable Thomas Wentworth, of Wentworth-Woodhouse; Sir Richard Sandys, of Northbourne Court, Kent, Bart., and Sir Philip Sydenham, of Brimpton, Somerset.

Beside the deceased Bishop of Ely, there were the Bishops of Salisbury, Winchester, Bath and Wells, and St. Asaph; Archdeacon Edmund Gibson, who in another year became Bishop of Lincoln; Heneage Deering, Dean of Ripon; Archdeacon Pearson, Chancellor of York, and Dr. John Potter, Canon of Christ-Church, and Regius Professor of Divinity at Oxford.

Of the Herald's Office there were John Anstis, Garter King-of-Arms; Le Neve, Norroy; Sir Alexander Ereskine, of Cambo, Lord Lyon King-of-Arms; William Hawkins, Ulster King-of-Arms of all Ireland; and Robert Dale, Suffolk Herald.

In the list are these College Libraries:—University College, Oxford; Lincoln College, Oxford; and St. John's College, Cambridge. Dr. Hudson, Head Keeper of the Bodleian Library, and Thomas Hearne, Keeper of the Bodleian, also subscribed.

In Leeds itself there were The Mayor, William Rooke; The Recorder, John Walker; Aldermen Milner, Atkinson, Askwith, Barker, Barstow, Cookson, Kitchingman and Rontree; the Town Clerk, Henry Adams, and Mr. Waterhouse, the Post-Master; Dr. John Killingbeck, the Vicar; Henry Lodge, M.A., of St. John's, and his predecessor, the Rev. Henry Robinson; the Lecturer at the Parish Church, Joseph Cookson,

M.A.; Rev. Thos. Dixon, M.A., Head Master of the Grammar School; his predecessor, Thos. Dwyer, B.D. (though he had left for Sedbergh he may be here inserted); and a Rev. Mr. Moulton. There were about thirty more Leeds subscribers, including John Tomlinsen, M.D., and John Seyner, Painter. Jasper Blythman, of London, son of the Recorder of Leeds of the same name, was also a subscriber.

Of the County gentry there were the following Baronets:—Sir John Armitage, of Kirklaas [Kirklees]; Sir Roger Beckwith, of Aldburgh; Sir John Bland, of Kippax; Sir Griffith Boynton, of Agnes-Burton; Sir Walter Calverley, of Calverley; Sir Abstrupus Danby, of Massamshire; Sir Henry Goodricke, of Robston [Ribston]; Sir Walter Hawksworth, of Hawksworth; Sir James Inglesby, of Ripley; Sir Arthur Kay, of Woodsom; Sir Richard Maulevrier; Sir Joseph Rawdon, of Rawdon, Sir William Robinson, of York; Sir George Tempest, of Tong; Sir Wm. Wentworth, and Sir Rowland Winn, of Nostal; beside Esquires Cyril Arthington, of Arthington, F.R.S.; John Boulter, of Gawthorp; Ralph Brandling, of Middleton; Robert Copley, of Doncaster; Henry Curren, of Killiwick [Kildwick]; John Dyneley, of Bramhope; Francis Fawkes, of Fernley; John Gascoigne, of Parlington; Robert Hitch, of Leathley; Richard Hudson, of Pudsey; George Lawson, of East Hartsey [E. Ardsley]; William Lowther, of Swillington; Robert Lowther, of Ackworth; William Nevile, of Holbeck; Lyon Pilkington; John Stanhope, of Horsford; Christopher Stockdale; Lawson Trotter, of Skelton-Castle; Benjamin Wade, of New Grange; Jno. Wassell, of Anderby-Steeple, and Jno. York of Richmond.

Among Thoresby's personal friends whose names appear there are Dr. Hickes; Strype; Dr., afterward Sir Hans Sloane, Secretary of the Royal Society; Sir Andrew Fountaine, Kt.; Jno. Chamberlayne, F.R.S.; Roger Gale, of Scruton, Yorkshire, and the Rev. Charles Gale, Rector there; Samuel Gale, of

London, and Miles Gale, of North Carolina; Richard Richard son, M.D. and F.R.S.; "Parson Plaxton;" Elstob, Rector of St. Swithens, and the "Saxon Nymph," his sister; the Rev. Thos. Baker, B.D., Fellow of St. John's College, Cambridge; Tempest Thornton, son and heir of the deceased Recorder whom Thoresby so much lamented; John Cookson, of London, and Thomas Fenton, the Hunslet Salter. To these may be added Vertue and Sturt the Engravers.

Beside those of the Clergy already mentioned there are more than twenty others, varying in Ecclesiastical dignity, including Prebendary Thos. Lamplugh, Chaplain to the Archbishop of York; the Rev. John Ray, Chaplain to Viscount Irwin, and Dr. Kirkshaw, the Rector of Ripley; and there are the names of four Nonconformist Ministers, distinguished by the affix, V.D.M., including Wm. Pendlebury, M.A., Minister in Leeds to the Mill Hill congregation, and son-in-law of Thomas Fenton.

Lastly, there are nine booksellers:—Arthur Collins, of London; Thomas Gittins, of Shrewsbury; John Giles and Thomas Goddard, of Norwich; Richard Grancett, and — Wall, of Bristol; James Harris, of Haverford-West; Edmund Jeffries, of Cambridge, and Edward Score, of Exeter, with John Heptinstall, a London printer.

Numerous as the above List is there must have been great confidence in a still larger demand from the general public, if we may rely upon the note appended to it by Wilson, the Leeds Charity-School Master, in the annotated Ducatus before referred to. He states that about Two Thousand copies were printed; adding that the plates were afterward destroyed or dispersed, Vertue's being worn quite smooth by the number of impressions of Thoresby's portrait taken from it.



## ADDITIONAL NOTE.

*"To which is added a short account of his Life."* Page 198.

This Life of Richard Stretton contains the following particulars. Descended from the Strettons, of Stretton, Leicestershire, he was born at Great Claybrook, near Lutterworth in that County. His father was a Puritan; and, baptized by a Mr. Moore, his baptism is not to be found in the Parish Register. He obtained the degree of M.A. on the 9th of July 1658, and near the same time assisted Dr. Cheynell at Petworth in Sussex. He was ordained "with Fasting, Prayer, and the Imposition of the Hands of Six Presbyters in the Parish Church of Arundel, Octob. 26, 1658." At Petworth he remained until Michaelmas 1660, when Cheynell "was put out to make room for Dr. King, Bishop of Chichester." He was offered by the Bishop £100 a year to remain Curate at Petworth, with the choice of a Prebend, but he declined the offer.

"Coming to London, quite at a loss how to dispose of himself, Mr. James Nalton providentially met him in the street; and having been spoken to by the Lord Fairfax to recommend a Chaplain to him, he presently brought Mr. Stretton to him; and upon his recommendation my Lord accepted of him, and took him down with him to his seat in Yorkshire."

While chaplain to Lord Fairfax, Mr. Stretton married Deborah, the daughter of Robert Moreton, Minister at Church-Lawford near Coventry, and sister of Dr. Richard Moreton, Physician in London, and had one or two children by her then. Lord Fairfax settled "a very considerable annuity upon him for his and his Wife's Life." She died in 1695.

Stretton was intimately acquainted with Tillotson, who would have him preach at St. Lawrence's "as a country Minister," which brought a reprimand from the then Bishop of London.

In Leeds he buried three sons within a few days, two of them having died of small pox. A consolatory letter dated 16 June 1677, written to him from Paris by the Earl of Clare, "Father to the late Duke of Newcastle," was found among his papers.

The account given in Vol. I, pages 205 and 206, of his accusation before the Privy Council, the interposition of Charles the Second himself, and Mr. Stretton's committal to Newgate by Lord Mayor Sir William Pritchard, is confirmed.

"When a sorry fellow, one *Fox* offered to swear that Mr. Stretton, with my *Lord Clare*, was in the plot then charged upon the Dissenters, the King laugh'd at the Information, as altogether improbable and inconsistent with itself." And when Stretton refused the "Oxford Oath," as Calamy calls it, the Lord Mayor made him withdraw for a while to re-consider; and when on his return Stretton still refused it, the Lord Mayor said he was sorry,—“for then there was no Remedy, but he must follow the direction of the Law, and so sent him to Newgate.” On his liberation, Mr. Stretton preached privately in various places.

Besides "The Protestant Nonconformist" published in 1679, he published in the year 1689 "The case of the Protestant Dissenters, Represented and argued." Calamy gives it in his abridgment of the Life of Baxter.

In 1707, exceeding his strength in preaching on a public Fast Day, he had "an ill fall" on his return home, but persisted in attending the Lectures at Salters' Hall, &c., "when he could scarce set one foot before the other." Until the 4th of May 1712 he preached once on Sundays and administered the Communion. On Thursday, the 3rd of July 1712, he died; and was buried the following Monday at Bunhill Fields, as already told.

The copy of Matthew Henry's Funeral Sermon and Life of Stretton from which the above was taken, is in Dr. William's Library, London.

## The Ducatus and its Reception.

TITLE AND PREFACE—REVIEWED IN PHILOSOPHICAL TRANSACTIONS—  
LETTERS—LEEDS CASTLE—EARLIER TOPOGRAPHY—MUSEUM THORESBY-  
ANUM—THORESBY'S APPENDIX.

THE title which Thoresby chose for his work must have puzzled many, as he himself anticipates in his preface,—

“But whence *Ducatus Leodiensis* in the Title? I reply, in Conformity to our learned Vicar Mr. *Robert Cook*, whose nativity is one of the greatest Glories of this Parish. Archbishop Usher, and other great Judges of such Performances, express a just Value for his *Censura Scriptorum Veterum*, in the Title whereof he stiles himself, *Ecclesiæ Leodiensis Pastor*. And since the Time that this Place was honoured by giving the Title of *Duke* to one of the most celebrated Statesmen in the Kingdom, I conceive it has as good a Title to *Ducatus Leodiensis*, as the description of the County hath to *Ducatus Eboracensis*.”

Nice critics may ask for more than this to warrant the elevation of Leeds from a Borough to a Duchy; but letting that pass, a further explanation may be sought why, the death of the first Duke having prevented the dedication of the Work to him, it was not dedicated to his son and successor in the Dukedom, but to his grandson, who at the time was Marquis of Caermarthen? So far from the Dedication itself throwing light upon the subject it rather heightens the puzzle by this eulogy of the second Duke,—

“The Martial Bravery of your Lordship's Father, so universally celebrated for his most hazardous Adventures in divers Naval Expeditions for the service of his Prince and Country, doth not only advance your Renown'd Name and Family; but also give the Publick just Reason to expect that such a Son as your Lordship, endowed with all Heroick

Accomplishments whatever, in Either Capacity (Civil or Military) may equal, if not exceed, the Brightest Example of former Ages."

Perhaps a reason is to be found in the prominent part taken by the Marquis in public affairs. He married the daughter of the Minister Harley, Earl of Oxford; but she died in November 1713, the year in which the Marquis had been made Lord Lieutenant of the East Riding of Yorkshire. When, as has been related, the Corporation of Leeds sent an Address to Queen Anne in the year after that in which their representatives were introduced to her, with another Address, by the first Duke, the same office was undertaken, not by the second Duke of Leeds, but by the Marquis of Caermarthen. The first Arms and Pedigree which Thoresby gives in his Topography, are those of Osborn, Duke of Leeds.

There is a second dedication to Wm. Rooke, Mayor of Leeds, the Recorder, Aldermen Milner and Atkinson, West-Riding Justices, and ten other Aldermen, Borough Justices, most of whom are in the list of Subscribers; and Thoresby here professes his gratitude for the moderating of his fine upon his own resignation of Corporate office. Over-leaf, along with directions for placing the cuts, is a plan of his deceased friend Mr. Kirke's wood, repeatedly eulogised in his diary; Mr. Boulter's map follows, immediately before the Preface; at the end of which, immediately before the Topography itself, is Mr. Place's "Prospect of Leeds from the Knostrop Road." Of course, the Frontispiece is Vertue's Effigies of the Author, having underneath the Thoresby Arms, generally corresponding with those upon the Hackney monument, the arrangement of the quarterings being slightly altered, and the Arms of Sykes added upon an Escutchen of Pretence. Crest, a Lion Rampant, holding a Battle-Axe in its paws.\* Opposite is the Title-page:—

\* *Ante*, page 170.

"DUCATUS LEODIENSIS :  
 Or, The  
 TOPOGRAPHY  
 Of the Ancient and Populous  
 Town and Parish  
 of  
 LEEDES,  
 And Parts Adjacent in the  
 West-Riding  
 of the  
 County of York.  
 With  
 The Pedegrees of many of the Nobility and  
 Gentry, and other matters relating to those  
 Parts; Extracted from Records, Original  
 Evidences, and Manuscripts.

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By Ralph Thoresby, F.R.S.

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To which is added, at the Request of several Learned Persons,  
 A Catalogue of his Musæum, with the Curiosities Natural and  
 Artificial, and the Antiquities; particularly the Roman, British,  
 Saxon, Danish, Norman, and Scotch Coins, with modern Medals.

Also

A Catalogue of Manuscripts; the various Editions of the Bible, and  
 of Books published in the Infancy of the Art of Printing.

With

An Account of some unusual Accidents that have attended  
 some Persons, attempted after the Method of Dr. Plot.

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London :

Printed for Maurice Atkins, and sold by Edward Nutt at the  
 Middle Temple Gate in Fleet Street. MDCCXV."

In some copies, in place of Mr. Nutt there is "Henry Clements at the Half-Moon in St. Paul's Church-Yard."

In his preface, Thoresby vindicates the spelling of Leedes with a third E against the opinion of some who then used the present orthography, by an appeal to the Corporate seal, and because,—“in the most ancient Charts relating to the Mannor of *Leedes*, there is always inserted a Letter between D and S, either the E *mutum* or I or Y, according to the different centuries they were writ in.” Much of this preface is amusingly characteristic. Ralph Thoresby finds for his antiquarian tendencies a warrant in the Old Testament, where there is a record of the building of Hebron seven years before Zoan in Egypt, and of those very ancient nations the Emims and the Horims; to all which he appends the quotation from the Book of Chronicles,—“These are ancient things.” He reproduces from Fuller\* a now well known commendation of this part of the County by Tunstall, Bishop of Durham, addressing Henry the Eighth as he passed, on his way to York, through Haslewood, within ten miles of Leeds; and, extending his zeal for the dignity of his birth-place to the trade whereby it flourished, Thoresby argues for the gentility of trading in a passage which ought to be very popular in this yet more commercial age than his own:—

“The wisest and one of the greatest Men that ever lived, thought it no Disparagement to deal in Trade; *Solomon* in all his Glory (like the Great Duke of *Tuscany*) accounting Traffick no Abatement to his Majesty. Some also of the Kings of *England* have traded in the two grand Commodities of this Land, *Wool* and *Tin*. Mr. *Philpot* is said to deserve highly of the City of *London* for proving in a learned and ingenious Book, That Gentry doth not abate with Apprenticeship,

\* Who quoted from a M.S. possessed by Wm. Vavasour, of Haslewood.

but only sleeps during the Time of the Indentures, and awaketh again when they are expired.”\*

From this, Thoresby passes to the excuse of the many Epitaphs which eventually drew upon him the censure of his Editor Whitaker, and therewith he enters upon a Church-yard dissertation not wholly without relationship to Hamlet’s discourse over the skull of Yorick:—

“One serious Walk over a Churchyard might make a Man mortified to the World, to consider how many he treads upon, who once lived in Fashion and Repute, but are now forgot; those however of preceding Ages. Imagine you saw your Bones tumbled out of your Graves as they are like shortly to be, and Men handling your Skulls and enquiring whose is this? Tell me of what Account will the World be then. This reminds me of making an Apology for interspersing in some Places, what may be censured as precise and cant. But I believe there is not so much of this as to give just occasion to any one that is but tolerably good-natured and Religious. And to be free I must confess honestly, that though I am content that these studies should sometimes employ my Thoughts and my Pen, yet I can by no means allow that they engross either. We are apt enough to let our Thoughts dwell upon the Profits and Pleasures of the World, but it is good sometimes, with *Nehemiah* to think upon the place of our *Fathers Sepulchres*, and who knows what effect an unexpected Digression may have? The devout *Herbert* long ago observ’d, A Verse *may* find him, who a Sermon flies, and turn Delight into a Sacrifice.”

The Ducatus Leodiensis had not been issued on the 13th of April 1715, as one of the subscribers, the Rev. John Hardy, Dissenting Minister at Nottingham, then wrote to Thoresby,—

\* A quarto publication of forty leaves, by John Philipot, Somerset Herald, entitled —“The Cities Advocate, in this Case, or question of Honour and Arms. ‘Whether Apprenticeship extinguisheth Gentry?’ Containing a clear Refutation of the pernicious common Error swallowed by Erasmus of Rotterdam, Sir Thomas Smith, &c.” London: 1629.

"I am glad to hear of Leland's ninth volume being come out . . . The book I more long to see is your *Leodiensis Ducatus*. By what you write, you give me encouragement to hope it will not be long before it be published." It came out not later than July, and Thoresby was then in London, as we learn from a note of Elizabeth Elstob's, and from two letters mentioned in the Cole M.S.S. at the British Museum. The first of these, dated London, 12 July 1715, is to Sir Hans Sloane, saying that Thoresby had forgotten to inquire if he had received a letter "concerning the number of births and burials in Harwood parish." The letter referred to had been sent from Leeds on the previous 23rd of May, when Thoresby wrote that the accompanying abstract from the Register of a neighbouring parish, which he had lately perused,—

"Tho' too slender a return for your most acceptable present of the 28th. Vol. of the *Phil: Trans:* for the year 1713, is yet all that falls within the power of,

"Dr. Sir,

"Your most obliged humble servant,

"R. T."

This may be read in connection with his letter of 1712, regretting that his means would not allow him to present a copy of the *Ducatus* to Sloane, whose subscription he was acknowledging; and the second London letter, dated 25 July 1715, bears out his allegation. It also indicates that the *Ducatus* was then published, and throws light upon the price of it, which Dr. Whitaker unsuccessfully endeavoured to ascertain. It was written to Strype, whom Thoresby had not time to see, but begged that he would send the 30s. for his own subscription, Mr. Dawson's and Mr. Heathcote's (merchants, of Hackney), as he was desirous to make up his account with the undertakers who had been intolerably hard upon him. As half the subscription money was to be paid upon subscribing, and the



other half on delivery, it appears hence that £3 was the price for the ordinary copies, none of the above names being marked in the list for copies on Royal Paper.

In No. 344 of the Philosophical Transactions, for June, July and August, the Work is reviewed. The Article, headed "Accounts of Books," deals first with "Linear Perspective, &c.," by Brook Taylor, LL.D. and R.S.Sec<sup>r</sup>.; and then with,—

"Ducatus Leodiensis, or *The Topography of the ancient Town and Parish of LEEDS and parts adjacent, in the County of YORK, &c.* By Ralph Thoresby, *Esq., Fellow of the Royal Society, London.* Fol. 1715."

In the earlier portion of the article there is a degree of quotation from Thoresby's Preface:—

"Tho' the diligent and curious Author of the Work do not professedly treat of any Place but the ancient Town and Parish of *Leedes*, and the *Regio Leodis*, or adjoining Territory called *Elmet*; yet not only the Preface is more general, relating to the County, but there are many Passages in the Book it self, wherein he takes occasion to insert the Pedigree of such of the Nobility and Gentry, as have had any Estates within the prescribed Limits, tho' the chief Seat of the Family be distant; as esteeming all *Provinciales* who have but one *Domicilium in Provincia*; to some of these he hath premised several Descents from ancient Deeds yet remaining in the respective Families; and to most of those that are inserted in the Visitations at the College at Arms, *London*, he hath added the Dates from Original Deeds, Registers, &c. and continued them to the present time, which hath rendered it so acceptable to the learned Gentlemen of that Faculty, that Four Kings-at-Arms, and some eminent Heralds, have not only subscribed, but since their Perusal thereof bought others for their absent Friends, expressing great satisfaction in that part of the Performance: as many learned Antiquaries have done in the other Parts relating to the Topography and Etymology of the names of Places, &c. which he hath been very particular in, as finding

the name to be frequently a brief Description of the Place; and hath been thereby enabled to discover the *Vestigia* of some considerable Antiquities, in the actual Survey that he made of those Places to render the Work more compleat. He hath, by the ancient Names and the situation of the Places, been enabled to describe, in a very particular manner, the Transactions between the Pagans and Primitive *Christian* Saxons, relating to that noted Battle upon *Winmoor*, An. Dom. 655. There are also many very considerable Benefactions, and stately edifices erected of later times, particularly a magnificent *Church* built and endowed by Mr. Harrison; whose nephew the Rev. Mr. Robinson hath most generously promis'd to endow another Church, which, it is hoped, will be shortly erected in that populous Town of *Leeds*, to the building of which several of the Magistrates, particularly Mr. *Milner* (who hath adorned the Market-Place with a most noble Marble Statue of Her late Majesty placed in the Front of the Guild-Hall) and other Inhabitants have subscribed very liberally. Here is also a Charity-School for an Hundred poor Children, who are clothed and taught here . . . . .

“But what relates more particularly to these *Philosophical Transactions*, is the annexed Catalogue of the Author's *Museum*, justly celebrated for Antiquities and for natural and artificial Curiosities. The Catalogue of the Coins and Medals is surprisingly copious and valuable. To the ancient *Greek* and *Consular*, or Family Monies of the Romans, he hath added above a thousand Imperial, several of which are noted by the learned Baron *Spanhemius* as very rare; and so likewise are those justly esteemed that relate more immediately to Britain, whether minted by the *Romans* or *Britains*. That of *Thor* with *Runic* Letters is inestimable, being the only Known piece in the World with those ancient Characters upon it. This was first deciphered by the Right Reverend Dr. *Nicholson*, Lord Bishop of *Carlisle*, and after by Dr. Hicks, the two great revivers of that sort of Literature. Upon which single Medal a learned Foreigner hath printed a distinct Treatise.\*

\* De Argento Insignito *Runis* seu literis Gothicis, &c. Sententia *Nicholai Kederi*, Regii Antiquitatum Collegii, quod Helmia est, Assessoris. 4to. 1703. *Leipsee. Note in Ph. Trans.*

And the Ingenious Sir *Andrew Fountain* in his *Dissertatio Epistolaris* to the Right Honourable *Thomas*, Earl of *Pembroke*,\* saith expressly, '*Numismatum omnium quæ aut Anglo-Saxonibus, aut Anglo-Danis in usu fuisse videntur, nullum notatu dignius est, quam id literis Runicis inscriptum, quod possidet vir genere & ingenio clarus Radulphus Thoresbeius, Leodiensis.*'† Those of the Saxon Kings begin with a very choice one of *Edwin*, the ancientest coin of the *English* Nation, and the first Christian King of *Northumberland*; and are succeeded by those of the *Danish* and *Norman* Lines, and continued to the present Age, in a great variety of current Monies and Medals in Gold, Silver and Copper. Those of *Ireland*, and the *English Plantations* in *America*, are interspersed in the several Reigns, but those of *Scotland* from the first of the *Alexanders*, are so numerous and valuable as to merit a particular Description. All along are very instructive Directions how to distinguish the Kings of the same Name from one another, before the Numbers were added upon their Monies. The *Roman* Emperors and *Saxon* Kings being well engraved before, the chief Defect and Difficulty is in those from William I to Henry VII which are therefore delineated here from the Originals. To these are prefixed the most ancient Consular Monies, which many Ages preceded the Incarnation of our Blessed Saviour, because never yet extant in any English Author. The other Medals and Monies of Popes, Emperors, Kings and Republics must be omitted for brevity's sake, tho' some of them (particularly that of the Siege of *Leyden* in *Pasteboard*) be very rare."

The Article, seven pages long, then proceeds with an account of the Natural Curiosities, Zoological, Botanical and Geological; the Artificial-Curiosities, Prints, Books, Autographs, Manuscripts, Charters and Deeds; and the Antiquities,—

"As Roman Deities, Altars . . . Bricks with Inscriptions, of which one very instructive is mentioned in the *Oxford*

\* In *Hickes' Thesaurus*.

† Of all Coins which seem to have been used by Anglo-Saxons, or Anglo-Danes, none is more worthy of note than the one inscribed with Runic letters, possessed by that ingenious gentleman, Ralph Thoresby, of Leeds.

Edition of *Livy* . . . The Figures of many of these are very well engraven, as also the Churches and Prospects in the Book.

“By the Appendix it appears what considerable Additions the indefatigable Author is continually making to this Musæum. A Medal of Jo. Kendal is especially remarkable, because retrieving the Memory of that noted Warrior, representing his Head in a noble *Relievo*, who was *Turcopellerius* or Colonel of the Cavalry (which office belonged to the English Nation) at the memorable Siege of *Rhodes*, when *Mahomet the Great* was worsted. To the *Autographs* is added one impressed with a *Stile*, upon a *Palmetto* leaf, and folded up as a missive Letter in the *East Indies* by one *Timothy* a converted *Malabarian*. Through the whole work he is particularly grateful, in writing the Names of his Benefactors that have sent him any Curiosities. And concludes with an account of *unusual Accidents* that have attended some Persons in their Births, Lives, and Deaths, of which many are very remarkable, but I fear to be too tedious.”

So extensive a notice of his Work in the Philosophical Transactions must have been gratifying to Thoresby, and he had reason to be satisfied with the commendations which he received in letters from his literary friends. Notwithstanding his straitened circumstances, he seems to have given a copy to Thomas Hearne, although the name figures in the list of subscribers; and early in August 1715, Hearne wrote from Oxford, as follows:—

“Worthy Sir,

“Yesterday I received your valuable present of your Topographical Description of Leeds, and I take this first opportunity of returning you my thanks. I immediately set about reading it, and have spent many hours upon it, with great delight and satisfaction. I am surprised at your collection of Curiosities. I find you intend an historical part: perhaps it might have been better to have published both parts together, and to have reserved the catalogue of your museum for a distinct work,

and if this catalogue had been done in Latin, I think it would have been of more universal use. But you have followed the opinion of abler judges than, worthy Sir,

“Your obliged, humble Servant,

“THO. HEARNE.”

During the same month he had letters from Anstis, Garter King-at-Arms; the Bishop of Carlisle; and Mr. Chamberlayne, of Petty France. Mr. Anstis wrote,—

“At the same time I have the honour of transmitting a letter to you, I cannot omit returning you my thanks for the satisfaction and good entertainment your Antiquities of Leeds have given me, and the prospect of the continuance thereof from your historical part, which I wish was in the press, for I join with those who eagerly expect it.”

Bishop Nicholson wrote,—

“I do not always agree in opinion with Mr. Hearne, who has most unworthily treated my good friend, and his own kind benefactor, Dean Kennet. But I heartily concur in the just character that he gives of the beauty of your cuts and the exactness of your discourses on their contents. Your book and the late Bishop of Salisbury’s third volume\* have afforded me many agreeable refreshments under my tedious confinement here; which is now, I hope, drawing towards an end.”

Mr. Chamberlayne wrote:—

“I do not know how to make you amends for the pleasure your excellent book has given me (and which I should have read over by this time, if it had not been my own), than by communicating, &c.”

Dr. Richardson wrote from North Bierley, 12th Sept.,—

“I have almost run over your elaborate book, and with very much satisfaction; and have considered what way I could answer Mr. R’s. and your request, by giving the world an account of it; but I find it impossible to do justice to your indefatigable labours, by bringing that into a narrower

\* Burnet died 17th March 1715. The preceding sentence in the letter seems to imply that Hearne wrote the article in the Transactions.

compass than the nature of the work requires, and I must own, in a treatise of so many different subjects, to give a due spirit to each requires a much better genius than mine; and by giving a general account of it, I am sensible I cannot give your book its due character. I hope, dear Sir, you will pardon my declining this task, and impute it not to any disrespect of the society nor yourself, for both which I have a very great esteem."

The next letter that we have on the subject is curious and interesting:—

"Winteredge, Oct. 12, 1715."

"Worthy Sir,

"I had your ingenious and elaborate book some time since by J. B. when I sent the latter payment, but deferred writing till I had read it all over, which I have now done to my great content and satisfaction. I am sure it hath cost you many a studious hour, which them that carp at it, know nothing of. Some carp at it because they would excuse themselves from the latter payment; others, because you manifest a truly Christian, candid spirit, and would not have all damned and cashiered that are not exactly of some men's opinion: this is the fate of Turner of Providence, and Mr. Fuller, who was the most ingenious and candid author that ever writ, but now exploded by this new set of High Church, because of his Christian charity. . . . I doubt this ill-natured, ungrateful world hath so ill requited you for this ingenious and elaborate book, that you will never write more. I see by your advertisement in the Evening Post, some have not paid you, which is most base and abominable, but shall not enlarge, I pray God prosper your studies and ingenious performances, which, with the tender of my very cordial service and respects, is all from, Sir,

"Your most affectionate friend and Servant,

"JONATHAN PRIESTLEY."\*

\* Mr. Hunter says in a note to another letter from this correspondent, that an account of the family written by his Father exists in manuscript. Jonathan Priestley appears to have thought highly of Turner's writings, and to the History of Providences made some additions in manuscript; from which Thoresby gives account in his appendix of a Wiltshire man, Jeremiah Street, 7 ft. 5 inches high, who was shown at Halifax on the 22nd of May 1703, but died at Bradford and was there buried on the 13th of June.

Strype wrote from Low Leyton, 6th December 1715,—

“I take this opportunity to salute you, and to enquire after your health and welfare, and likewise to thank you for your laborious and exact work, viz., *The Topography of Leeds*, and to assure you how delighted I have been with the variety of memorable matters therein. And as for your manuscripts in folio, I wish sometimes that I were amongst them. There are some which seem to tend to the illustration of Queen Elizabeth’s times, which you know I have been studious about.” Thereupon he proceeds to inquire about the contents of some which he specifies.

Edward Clarke, M.A., Vicar of Nottingham, who had been Master of the Leeds Free Grammar School from 1690 to 1694, is not in the list of subscribers, but on the 4th of January 1716 he wrote from Haslehack,—

“It is now a month since I had the happiness of getting your elaborate work into my possession, in which time I have in a manner dwelt again in Leeds. No day passes without my taking a delightful view of those places formerly so well known to me . . . . when I take a turn in your churches and cemeteries, it is there indeed with grief I behold the memorials of mortality of so many of my worthy acquaintance, for whose persons, when living, I had a deserved esteem, and for whose memories, now dead, I must always retain a veneration; particularly for that of my dear Cousin Thornton, to whose incomparable virtues you have done so much justice.

“The town of Leeds is worthily celebrated amongst those of the first rank in our nation, but you have made it immortal; and it may live in your works, when the place itself may be what your *Adellocum* is now. Such a day, if ever it comes, is yet I hope at a great distance; and in the mean time, I heartily concur with you in all your pious wishes for its happiness and prosperity, and that the inhabitants may all abound as much in spiritual blessings as they do in temporal; and in the midst of their abundance, that they may never be unmindful of, or unthankful to, the great Author.”

In the following month, Dr. Arthur Charlett, Master of University College, Oxford, wrote,—

“It is but lately that, through several unhappy diversions, I was so kind to myself as to look into your most instructive and delightful book, being, when so long at London last summer, hindered by our late excellent friend Dr. Hickes, from reading Mr. Anstis’, whose book he borrowed, and Dr. Sloane had not found his: and having an opportunity this morning of writing *manu amicâ* into Arundel-Street, I cannot forbear expressing the great pleasure and satisfaction I have taken in perusing several parts of your laborious and useful collection.” He then corrects some slight errors, principally in the Pedigree of Bathurst.

Thus it is abundantly evident that the *Ducatus Leodiensis* gained a reputation far beyond the limits of the locality of which it treats. It was even noticed in a French periodical, *Nouvelles Littéraires* of Saturday, 28 September 1715. This was made known, and explained to Thoresby in the following letter, which has been published together with others in the collected works of the writer, as well as Thoresby’s reply:—\*

“London, Sep. 29, 1715.”

“Sir,

“Mr. Des Maizeaux, the Gentleman who publish’d Monsieur Bayle’s *Letters*, and who has obliged the learn’d world with several of his own Productions, was so taken with your *Ducatus Leodiensis* (as all persons of curiosity and judgment must necessarily be), that he sent an account of it to a foreign Journalist, with whom he keeps a correspondence. After having mention’d your Book, he adds, in relation to yourself:—

“‘M. Thoresby avoit été élevé pour le commerce, & il y faisoit de fort bonnes affaires; mais la passion violente qu’ il avoit pour toute sorte de Curiositez & de Raretez lui fit

\* They are not inserted in the correspondence which Mr. Hunter published; but Dr. Whitaker reprinted them in the Life of Thoresby prefixed to his edition of the *Ducatus*.



abandonner cette profession pour suivre son inclination naturelle. Le Catalogue des Raretez de son Cabinet n'est pas moins curieux qu' instructif: il seroit à souhaiter que tous ceux qui possèdent de semblables tresors voulussent imiter Mr. Thoresby.'

"Of this I knew nothing until I saw the Journal, and then Mr. Des Maizeaux own'd he had transmitted that Paragraph, which will make the Book enquir'd after beyond the seas. In effect, a famous Bookseller in Holland, has upon this notice sent for some copies.

"I thought my self so much interested in what concerns the fame of an honest man, tho' not long happy in his acquaintance, that I cou'd not refrain sending you this account. The justice done in it to your merit, ought to be imitated by all those of your Countrymen who do not envy you, for there are no parties in the Republic of Letters: and if foreigners are so highly pleas'd with perusing your Antiquities of a place they never saw; I think the Town of Leeds, which you have not only rendered illustrious, but even immortal, shou'd after their example (of which I cou'd give many instances) in gratitude erect your Statue, accompany'd with a most honourable Inscription.

"You may remember, Sir, that Mr. Des Maizeaux inserted his name in your Album the day I took leave of you. He forgets not his promise of furnishing you with some hands. I shall likewise add others, to those you have already been pleas'd to accept. In the mean time, I beg the favour of you to lend or procure me an account, of such Traditions, concerning the Druids,\* as may possibly obtain in your northern parts: what Monuments are ascrib'd to them there, or that are likely to be theirs, tho' vulgarly taken otherwise: and what places (if any) are evidently, or conjecturally, call'd after them. Such

\* In "An Historical Account of the Life and Writings of the late Eminentlly Fâmous Mr. John Toland," its author, Des Maizeaux, says that at the time of his death (11 March 1721-2), he was "about writing *the History of the Druids*, the Introduction to which is finished, and in the Hands of that Worthy Nobleman the Lord Molesworth."

an account, in whole or in part, will lay a singular obligation upon,

“Sir,

“Your most faithful obedient servant,

“JOHN TOLAND”

Taking into consideration how differently constituted were Thoresby on the one hand, on the other Toland and Des Maizeaux, how opposed their principles, how wide apart their ideas, there is nothing in his correspondence more remarkable than this letter. The point is touched upon in the conclusion of Thoresby's reply:—

“Leeds, Octob. 12, 1715.”

“Sir,

“I take the opportunity of the very first post to acknowledge the favour of your most obliging Letter, with the inclos'd Paragraph out of the *Nouvelles Littéraires*, wherein I perceive that Mr. Des Maizeaux has done me the honor to mention the *Ducatus Leodiensis*. My humble service and thanks to that learned Author: but his and your candor hath, I fear, been too extensive as to any thing of my performance, who being bred a Merchant, want the advantage of an Academic Education; but *la passion violente* he justly observes in me, did me in that respect a kindness, and made me give over in time before the gentleman in Holland I was in partnership with, run himself aground.

“I am sorry I cannot more effectually answer your request as to the *Druids*, we not having any traditions, &c., relating to them in these parts. They seem to me to have retired with the Britons into Wales: whatever I have been able to procure relating to them, (mention'd p. 493) being procured from thence. Only I have often thought that *Bardsay* near Wetherby in these parts received its name from the Bards their contemporaries; 'tis even yet a private retired place near the forest, proper for contemplation.

“I am particularly pleased with one expression in yours, that *there are no parties in the Republic of Letters*, for I am

(as you kindly observe) an *honest man* (let me add simple and plain hearted) and can converse with great ease and satisfaction with both high and low \* (tho' I cou'd wish all distinctions laid aside), and have correspondents of both denominations. But you will pardon me for wishing that a Gentleman of so much humanity, learning and curiosity, was, in one point, more of the sentiments of the Catholick-Church. Pardon, Sir, this single expression as proceeding from the affectionate desires of a simple recluse in his country cell, where he prays for peace and truth, and the welfare of all mankind. I shall not for the future disturb you with any thing of this kind, but most readily serve you in any thing that lies in the power of,

“Sir,

“Your most faithful humble servant,

“RALPH THORESBY.”

The encomiums bestowed upon Thoresby's publication were not undeserved. He had no predecessor whose work might serve as a basis on which to enlarge, and as an index to further research. Perhaps an exception to this, so far as the pedigrees are concerned, may be alleged in the Hopkinson M.S.S.; and they were only available at the cost of laborious copying with his own hand, as before related. And when done we find him, whenever he had opportunity, verifying and enlarging his pedigrees by collation with family records, and the genealogical treasures of the Herald's Office. Thoresby had to collect his materials from a variety of original sources before the composition of his book could begin, a preliminary which extended over many years of his lifetime. They who take interest in the locality comprehended within his Topography need but ask themselves what they would know of its past but for the labours of Thoresby, to be conscious of the debt which they owe to him.

\* High Church and Low Church.

The Ducatus Leodiensis, taken generally, is a careful and trustworthy compilation of topographical matter, notwithstanding that it sets out with a blunder which has often since been repeated, and against which Thoresby himself had been cautioned. On the west side of Leeds there was a Park, commemorated to this day by street nomenclature, and local tradition spoke of a former castle. The curiosity of such an antiquary as Thoresby could not but seek further knowledge of it, and his disposition to enhance the dignity of his town was favourable to the easy reception of evidence concerning this alleged castle. He applied for information to Dr. Johnston, who wrote to him in June 1693,—“I know not as yet how far I may be able to help you as to the Castle;” and again at the end of January 1694,—“As to the Castle of Leeds, I find it of no considerable note as yet. You must have a care that you misapply not what is recorded of Leeds, in Kent, to your own town.” And this is just what Thoresby did. His Topography commences with the west part of Leeds, “because there of old stood a famous Castle with a Park adjoining;” and the succeeding paragraph continues,—“This Castle was besieged by King *Stephen* in his March towards *Scotland*, Anno 1139; and here was the unfortunate Prince, King *Richard* II lodged, some time before his barbarous Murder in *Pontefract* Castle; but these Matters are to be more fully discussed in the Historical Part.” Now the mere fact that Leeds Castle in Kent was one of three which were given by Henry the First to his natural son, Robert, Earl of Gloucester, the foremost asserter of Matilda’s right against King Stephen, affords strong presumption that this was the Castle besieged; and some of the chroniclers distinctly affirm it. Henry of Huntingdon says, under the year 1138,—“Robert the Earl, bastard son of King Henry, maintained himself in the strongly fortified Castle of Bristol, and in that of Leeds;” and then in 1139,—“In the fourth year of his reign, when Christmas

was past, King Stephen besieged and took Leeds Castle, after which he went into Scotland." Roger of Wendover says also under 1138 that Robert, Earl of Gloucester, held Leeds and Bristol against the King; and in 1139, — "Stephen after Christmas (*post natale Domini*) the Castle of Leeds being taken, went into Scotland."

As to the imprisonment of Richard the Second, the evidence is no less clear. Thoresby says in his preface he had been told that his statement was an error, "it being commonly supposed to be at the Castle of Leeds in Kent, but," he proceeds, "for no other Reason, I presume, than that Place's being better known to the South Country Historians; accordingly Hollinshed is very positive in it." So setting Hollinshed aside, he rests his case upon a now well known stanza in Hardyng's Chronicle, beginning "The Kyng then sent Kyng Richard to Ledes," and telling of his removal thence to Pickering, Knaresbro' and Pomfret. Thoresby thereupon argues that Hardyng having been born in the North of England best knew affairs in that part, and all the places named being in Yorkshire Thoresby thereupon decided the Leeds mentioned to be Leeds in that county. His Editor in later times, Dr. Whitaker, adopts his view; but unfortunately for their plausible argument the question does not rest between Hollinshed and Hardyng. The contemporary chronicle of Peter de Ickham\* says of the deposed King,—"Whom from the Tower of London they put into the Castle of Leeds in Kent, afterward into the Castle of Pontefract in the County of York, where for a certain time he was confined," &c. This is confirmed by "The Chronicle of the Betrayal and Death of

\* There is a very beautifully written copy of this chronicle among the Harleian M.S.S. (No. 4,323), in the fly-leaf of which is written,—

"Hunc librum descripsit  
Vir venerabilis Henricus Wharton."

Richard the Second, King of England," published by the English Historial Society, which relates how Richard was sent from London to Gravesend, no unlikely route for the Kentish Leeds Castle, on the Vigil of All Saints (31 October) 1399. A manuscript (Reg. 13c.) quoted in this publication, says,—“While King Richard in the meantime was first secretly brought from the Tower to Leeds in Kent, under the custody of John Pelham there; thence to the Castle of Pomfret, where Robert de Waterton was governor.” Polydore Virgil also says distinctly that it was Leeds in Kent to which Richard was taken; and Hall, in his introduction,—“For shortly after his resignacion, he was conueighed to the Castell of Ledes in Kent, and from thence to Poumfret.” Of later writers, not only Hollinshed, but also Fabyan, in his “Concordance of Histories,” and John Rastell in “The Pastyme of the Peoples,” say the Leeds Castle in question was the one in Kent.

The probability is so strong as to approach nearly to certainty that Richard was taken by sea from Kent to the coast of Yorkshire, and thence to Pickering, Knaresbrough and Pomfret, as Hardyng rhymes. The first and last of these three Castles became the property of John of Gaunt by his marriage with Blanche, heiress of Henry, Duke of Lancaster; and Knaresborough was given to him in 1371 by Edward III. When at his death his son Henry, returning from exile, landed at Ravenspur in Holderness, professedly to gain possession of the patrimony which had fallen to him, he followed the very same route of Pickering, Knaresborough and Pomfret, whence he proceeded to Doncaster; as narrated in a Harleian M.S. once belonging to Kirkstall Abbey, and afterward to Thomas Falkingham of North Hall, Leeds. Another Chronicle of Kirkstall among the Cottonian M.S.S. (Dom. A. XII) also says that Henry having landed “in Holdernesse near Bridlyngton . . .

removing thence came to the Castle of Pykeryng and afterward to the Castle of Pontefract." It is very natural that Henry should subsequently despatch his prisoner to Pomfret by the same route, while on the other hand even the concealment which is said to have been aimed at scarcely explains how Richard could be sent direct from Leeds in Yorkshire to Pickering, and then brought back to Knaresborough and Pomfret.

Mr. Hunter was evidently satisfied on this point. In a note to the second quotation above given from Dr. Johnston's letters, he says,—“This caution was too little heeded by Thoresby, and, what is more extraordinary, by his more acute and more learned successor;” and in his manuscript Topography of the West Riding (Add. M.S.S. 24464), under the heading “The supposed Castle,”—“In my Dodsworth, vol. 2, 278, is what is probably the origin of all that has been said and written on this subject. A conjecture of Edward Fairfax the Poet.” It might be pleaded on behalf of Thoresby's assertion in regard to Richard the Second, that the Manor of Leeds, as well as Pickering and Pomfret, became John of Gaunt's by his marriage with Blanche; but this is much too slight to overthrow all the testimony against him, and allowing Leeds in Yorkshire to have possessed a Castle at one time, there is reason to doubt its continuance so late as the reign of Henry the Fourth. A statement has been already noticed that when the foundations of Leeds Bridge were exposed in 1760, it and its chapel seemed to have been built together in or before Edward the Third's time.\* Thoresby, in the Ducatus, has preserved a tradition that the Bridge was built from the ruins of the Castle. Now as the Manor of Leeds formed part of the possessions of Thomas, Earl of Lancaster, beheaded at Pomfret and attainted in the reign of Edward the Second, and

\* Vol. I, page 10.

this attainder was not reversed until after the succession of Edward the Third, it is at least a plausible supposition that the Castle was at this time dismantled, and the materials placed at the service of the burgesses for their new bridge. For be it remembered that Leeds had a Charter so early as the reign of King John, in which its Lord, Maurice Paganell, styled the inhabitants his burgesses. The tradition of a former Castle is strengthened by a discovery which Thoresby made while the Ducatus was in progress. On one of his visits to the Tower, Mr. George Holmes, then in charge of the Records, showed him a deed of the 46th of Edward III, containing a clause which, in English, runs thus,—“Leeds Manor. Fulling-Mill constructed by the water issuing from the King’s Pool without the neighbouring Castle, and three acres of land through the middle of which the said water runs, is granted to Thomas Burgers and his heirs, rental 33s. 4*d.* yearly.” This also supports Thoresby’s conjecture that the Castle stood at Mill Hill. The date of this deed is half a century later than the time above suggested as that when the bridge was built from the castle ruins, but it does not necessarily follow that because the mill is said in the deed to be near the Castle the latter stood intact when thus referred to.

The historical interest of the subject, and the frequency with which Thoresby’s statement has been re-iterated, warrant this digression; but to return to the Ducatus Leodiensis.

The wide notice which this avowedly local book drew may be ascribed in some degree to its novelty, for it was unique among Topographical publications at the time when it appeared. Many of the Southern and Midland Counties had been written upon. Lambarde’s *Perambulation of Kent*, a small quarto, was published so early as the year 1576; and John Norden’s *Speculum Britanniaë*, a publication of the same size, dealt with Middlesex and Hertfordshire before the close of the same



century. In the next came the Survey of Cornwall, by Robert Carew, published in 1602; Burton's Leicestershire, in 1622; Dugdale's Warwickshire and King's Vale Royal (the County Palatine of Chester) in 1656. Kent was again described in Philipott's Villare Cantiarum, 1659; and Cheshire in the second book of Sir Peter Leycester's Historical Antiquities, 1673. Thoroton's Nottinghamshire and Plot's Natural History of Oxfordshire came out in 1677; The History and Antiquities of Rutlandshire, by James Wright, in 1684; Plot's Staffordshire, in 1686; the Natural History of Lancashire, Cheshire and the Peak of Derbyshire, by Charles Leigh, Doctor of Physick, and Sir Henry Chauncey's Historical Antiquities of Hertfordshire, in 1700. John Bowack's Antiquities of Middlesex was published in 1705; and more closely preceding Thoresby came Morton's Natural History of Northamptonshire; The Chorographical Description or Survey of the County of Devon, collected by the Travail of Tristram Risdon of Winscot, Gent., for the Love of his Country and Countrymen in that Province;"\* and Sir Robert Atkyn's Gloucestershire, which shared misfortune with the Ducatus at Bowyer's fire. But these are all county histories, and none of them extend to the North of England counties, except the Lancashire portion of Dr. Leigh's Natural History.

The Metropolis had its Survey, by John Stowe, with the appended Description of London by that earliest of our Topographers, Fitzstephen;† and the City of Canterbury, the Antiquities by William Sumner, first published in 1640. A quarto of twenty-three pages, *Thermæ Redivivæ*, by Henry Chapman, Gent., 1673, gave a description of the City of Bath,

\* *Damnonii Orientales Illustres*, or the Worthies of Devon, 1705, by John Prince, Vicar of Berry-Pomeroy, bears a mixed character of Biography and Topography.

† A New View of London, 8vo., 1708, by Edward Hatton, though it may be classed with Topography, is in a great degree the predecessor of modern Directories and Guide Books.

introductory to observations on its waters. A True Description of the City of Norwich, in quarto, and A Short History of the City of Norwich, in octavo, were printed in 1706. In the North, there was one small quarto, *Chorographia: or a Survey of Newcastle-on-Tyne*, by William Grey, 1649; but not one Provincial town had been made the subject of any Topographical publication of importance when Ralph Thoresby sent forth his *Ducatus Leodiensis*, describing Leeds. And the second part of the volume, the Catalogue of Thoresby's coins, antiquities, curiosities and literary treasures, under the title *Musæum Thoresbyanum*, has an interest not restricted by locality. There can be no doubt that the possession of this collection helped much to make its owner known among men of letters and science, while his growing acquaintance with them contributed in return towards the increase of the *Musæum*.

The Will of Thomas, Lord Fairfax, who died in November 1671, directed that his personal effects should be applied to the payment of debts, expenses and legacies, excepting the contents of Nun-Appleton, where he died, which were given to his only surviving child, the Duchess of Buckingham, and of another house at Bilborough.\* From the executors (Henry Fairfax, his cousin and successor in the Peerage, and a nephew, Thomas Hutton of Popleton), John Thoresby bought a quantity of coins, which in part had been collected by a Rector of Darfield in Yorkshire, named Stonehouse; and two original portraits, one of the Testator, the other of the second Lord, Ferdinando.† Whether this were before or after he obtained

\* The Will is printed at length in the Appendix to Markham's Fairfax. Henry Arthington of Arthington, who married one of the sisters of Lord Fairfax, was also named executor, first of the three, but he died a few months before the Testator.

† There was also a folio volio of M.S.S., No. 40 in Thoresby's Catalogue, of which he says,—“This Book by the Arms upon the Cover seems to have been the Lord Keeper *Williams's* when Bishop of *Lincoln*, but was bought of the Lord Fairfax's Executors.” It contained, among other things, Queen Elizabeth's letter of Sir Amyas Paulet concerning the Queen of Scots, particulars of her arraignment at Fotheringhay, letters and an account of her Execution.”

possession of the Roman Altar mentioned by Dr. Lister in the *Philosophical Transactions*, it is said in the *Biographia Britannica* that by this purchase of coins John Thoresby founded the Museum. The terms used in his Will bequeathing the collection to his son "keeping the ancientest and rarest to himself with the other medals I have collected," imply more than a single purchase, and Thoresby gives this account of them in cataloguing No. 159 of his Quarto Manuscripts:—

*"Nummorum Antiquorum Thesaurus;* by the Rev. Mr. Stonehouse, Rector of *Darfield*, Com. *Ebor.* Upon whose Death the ancient Coins and Medals of which this contains the Chronological Series were purchased by *Tho. Lord Fairfax*, of whose Executors, Mr. *John Thoresby* Purchased both those and his Lordship's own valuable Collection; all which are part of the preceding Catalogue. To those of the said three noted Antiquaries are now added what I have been able to procure at my own Expençe, or by the Kindness of my Friends, for near Forty Years past."

The coins and antiquities, were they more or less, which became Ralph Thoresby's upon his father's death were the commencement of the remarkable collection enumerated in his catalogue, and of which eventually the fame spread far and wide.

The first allusion to it in Thoresby's Diary is on the 13th of July 1681, when Mr. Scrimshaw, afterward Sir Charles Scrimshaw, having accompanied him home from Harrogate, Thoresby was "showing him the collection of Romans coins, medals, &c., till almost midnight."\* It must have been a large one even then, for little more than a year later Thoresby writes,—

"Showing our collection of coins to Dr. Howel, the learned Chancellor of Lincoln,† who professed it was the most curious

\* Vol. I, page 114.

† Wm. Howell, L.L.D., Fellow of Magdalen College, Cambridge, died in the following year, 1683. He was the author of "An Institution of General History from the Beginning of the World to the Conquest of England," four volumes folio; and of a much smaller work, *Medulla Historiæ Anglicanæ*, which was published after his death, with a continuation by another hand.

and complete collection he ever beheld, except one in France, wherein were 15,000*l* in gold and silver medals."

The publication of Gibson's edition of Camden, as Mr. Hunter observes, brought the museum more under notice, and in his Review for the year 1705 Thoresby tells how his time was broken in upon by visitants to it, "from almost all the counties of England, and some from Scotland and Ireland, with others from Hamborough and other trans-marine parts." Next year he says again,—“I had plenty of visitants from London, Newcastle, and others from Holland, Ireland, &c., which cost too much time, to the omission of prayer. Lord pity and pardon!” It was on one occasion visited by Sir Littleton Powis, one of the Judges, and on another by Judge Bury, when they halted in Leeds and were entertained by the Mayor and Corporation.\* When the Life-Guards passed through Leeds in 1708† Brigadier Pulteney, Major Cornwall, and other of the officers went to look at it; and when the three days races on Chapel-Town Moor filled the town with strangers, Thoresby had a busy time of it. In the race-week of the above year 1708, Lady Howard and Lady Savile, mother and grandmother of that Duke of Norfolk who was born at Red Hall, in Chapel-Town neighbourhood, visited the Museum, and Thoresby dined with them two days afterward.

\* At page 375 of *Museum Thoresbryanum* there is the following account of two coins of Charles II struck immediately after his father's beheading, the year being given Old Style:—

“423.—The first Monies that bear the Name of this King were coined in this Neighbourhood by Colonel *John Morris* Governor of *Pontefract* Castle, round which is inscribed CAROLVS. SECVDVS. 1648. On each Side the Standard, in the middle Tower is P.C. Rev. a Crown with C.R. DVM. SPIRO SPERO.”

“427.—A Crown with this Inscription in the Field, HANC. DEVS. DEDIT. 1648. The Legend in the Circumference is, CAROL. II. D.G. MAG. B.F. ETH. REX. Rev. P.C. above the Castle, POST. MORTEM PATRIS. PRO. FILIO. This is so rare, that the Governor's Son (then Town-Clerk of *Leedes*) told some of the Judges, when their Lordships came to see this *Museum*, that he had often heard of, but never seen, one of this Sort, except this Numerical Piece.”

† *Ante*, page 25.

The following entries in his Diary furnish a curious example of the varied character of the visitors whom this Musæum attracted, adding to his autographs:—

“7 July 1710.—Showing collections to Mr. Wilkinson, Vicar of Halifax; and, in the evening, to a stranger brought by Captain Nevile, as a Kinsman of Dr. Sacheverel’s, but supposed to be the Doctor himself incognito; the hand is not unlike, and the motto suitable, *dulce et decorum pro patriâ pati*.”

“3 Aug.—Showing collections to Dr. Gibson, of Covent Garden (uncle to Dr. Edmund Gibson, of Lambeth), whose rare treatise of Anatomy has had several impressions; in company were two of Richard Cromwell’s daughters, who took notice of what related to that family.\* Thus am I exposed, like a common innkeeper, to guests of all complexions; the last was Dr. Sacheverell’s Kinsman, these, two of Oliver Cromwell’s grand-daughters (one of which seemed to have his height of spirit); but as much as moderation is descried, one betwixt both extremes is, in my opinion, to be preferred before either.”

Among others who inspected the Musæum were his correspondent, Dr. Cay of Newcastle; Lord Fairfax; Sir Willoughby Hickman; Sir John Kaye; Lord Irwin, once in company with his tutor Mr. Ingram, of Barrowby, and a second time with his uncle and son from Turkey; Sir Thomas Willoughby, afterward Lord Willoughby, and his Lady; Dr. Hudson, Keeper of the Bodleian Library, Oxford; the Earl of Westmoreland, with his Brother and Chaplain; Mr. Todd of London, but a Leeds man by birth, Chaplain to the Bishop of St. Asaph; and Mr. Fowler, son of the Bishop of Gloucester, with “his brother Chadwick, grandson to Archbishop Tillotson by the excellent Bishop Wilkins’s daughter.” The visit of Archdeacon, afterward Bishop Nicholson, who came along with his cousin

\* Mr. Hunter states in a note that Dr. Gibson married one of Richard Cromwell’s daughters.

Archdeacon Pearson, is particularly note-worthy ; for besides his Musæum, Thoresby showed them the Cloth Market, and there treated them and himself to Brig-End-Shots at the cost of sixpence. "The Brig-End-Shots," it is explained in the Ducatus, "have made as great a noise among the vulgar, where the Clothier may, together with his Pot of Ale, have a Noggin o' Porrage, and a Trencher of either Boil'd or Roast Beef for Two-pence, as the Market itself." And in a view of Leeds, by Lodge, inserted in the book, this famous institution is denoted by vigorously smoking chimneys at both ends of the bridge on which the Market used to be held. There are worse subjects for canvass than Thoresby and the two Archdeacons over their Brig-End-Shots.

Hebrew, Greek and Roman Coins (including some Romano-British), with the annotations upon them, occupy the first sixty pages of Musæum Thoresbyanum. Sixty more are devoted to British, Saxon, Danish, English and Scotch coins and medals ; and thirty pages to those of various foreign countries. The English medals are very curious, and include some that are satirical, one upon Titus Oates, and others on the King James the First. Thoresby observes,—“Such Sarcastical Medals are too frequently struck upon Princes in Adversity.”

Next follows a Catalogue of Natural and Artificial Rarities ; “and first of the Humane,” a chapter of remarkables suited in general for the College of Surgeons. Specimens in Zoology and Ornithology, Fishes, Shells, Insects, Plants, “Formed Stones,” under which head are included Corals and Fossils, other geological specimens under that of “Irregular Stones,” and mineralogical specimens, complete the Natural Rarities. The Artificial are very miscellaneous, and not the least curious portion of them is a collection of many articles of wearing apparel, illustrating the fashions of his own and earlier times.

The next part of *Musæum Thoresbyanum* belongs strictly, not to Thoresby's *Musæum*, but to his Library. First, he gives a list of Various Editions of the Bible, or portions of it, Concordances and Prayer-Books, extending over fifteen pages; nearly thirty of Manuscripts follow, classified in folios, quartos and octavos; then about four of Ancient printed Books, as many of Autographs, and other three pages of Old Deeds and other writings. About a dozen pages more, giving account of the remaining Antiquities in the *Musæum*, wind up the Catalogue.

The greater part of the Appendix is supplementary to both divisions of the foregoing Work, giving additional information concerning people and places mentioned in the Topography, and additions made to the Collection which is the subject of *Musæum Thoresbyanum*. But twenty-six pages of it are filled with the extraordinary record which Thoresby "attempted after the Method of Dr. Plot." This account of Unnatural Births, prolific Mothers, unaccountable Sympathies and Antipathies, remarkable cases of Disease, of Longevity and other marvels, is amusing enough, and the more so for the simplicity with which it is narrated; but incidentally it has preserved many notices of his contemporaries and others which it is interesting now to possess. With all our increase of population, it would be difficult now-a-days to compile another such chapter, and some cases almost challenge credibility, though apparently well authenticated. To give one passage as a specimen:—

"Mr. *Thomas Bernard* of *Leedes* was fifty years old when he married, had eighteen Children, and was so brisk that he rid a Hunting when he was above an hundred Years of Age, his aged Widow is yet living in this Town; he could then read without Spectacles, though he had used them at Ninety. Dr. *Lewis Jones*, Bishop of *Killaloe*, from whom an ingenious Baronet in a preceding Pedegree is descended, was sixty years

of Age when he married, yet lived to see two of his Sons Bishops. He was succeeded by Dr. *Edward Parry*, Father to *John* and *Benjamin Parry*, who were also Bishops. This Bishop Jones (of whose Strength an instance was given before\*) lived to be one hundred and four. From the Manuscript Collections of my old friend Mr. *Jonathan Priestley* of *Winter-Edge* near *Halifax*, I have notice of one *James Sagar*, who married at four-score, and yet lived to lead his Grand-child to Church: But the most remarkable in this West-Riding of *Yorkshire* was *Repentance Procter*, because of the renewing of her Strength and Vigour; she was once so infirm and decrepit with Age, that she could scarce crawl about the House with a Staff, but afterwards regained a new Set of Teeth, and exchanged her grey Hairs for black, and could trip briskly to Church and Market, though several Miles distant. Mr. *Forster* of *Leedes*, and Mr. *Lupton* our Parish-Clerk, are living Witnesses of both States. I have the promise of the like Account concerning the old Lady *Rudstone*."

One other passage merits notice for its testimony that the tragical result of the war between Cavalier and Roundhead was deprecated even among those whom Cromwell and his associates are supposed to represent. After a short recital of the many members of the House of Stuart, who came to an untimely end, including "King Charles I., for whose Death the Land yet mourns," Thoresby continues:—

"This reminds me of one Mr. *John Jackson*, a good old Puritan, and one of the Assembly of Divines at *Westminster*, yet so zealously affected for King *Charles I.* when he heard of his being brought before a pretended High Court of Justice, that he prayed earnestly that God would please to prevent that

\* A few pages earlier,—“But to proceed in the instances of *Strength*, *Lewis Jones*, Bishop of *Killaloe* (Grandfather to a Baronet in one of the preceding Pedegrees), was of so great Strength, that with his naked Hands, he could twist or break an Horse-shoe or Iron-bars of the like Substance.” This was told to Thoresby by Sir Henry Piers of Leeds, and of Tristernaugh in Ireland, who must be the Baronet referred to, although his Pedigree mentions other Irish Prelates of the Jones family, and not the said Bishop.



horrid Act, which would be a perpetual Shame to the Nation, and a Reproach to the Protestant Religion; or at least would be pleas'd to remove him that he might not see that woful Day. His Prayer was heard and answered as to himself. For not willing to depend upon common Fame, I examined the Register at *Berwick-in-Elmet*, and found he was buried the Week before, though having mislaid the Paper, and the Press not permitting delay, I cannot fix the particular Day. When he lay upon his Death-bed, he call'd for Pen and Ink, and writ these Words, *I believe the Forgiveness of Sins, the Ressurrection of the Body, and Life everlasting*; and died immediately, *Jun. 1648.*"

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## XVII.

### From A.D. 1715 to 1719.

POLITICAL CRISIS—CORRESPONDENCE ON THE JACOBITE INSURRECTION—  
DEATH OF THE VICAR OF LEEDS, AND OF THE CHANCELLOR OF YORK—  
CORRESPONDENCE WITH HEARNE AND STRYPE—LETTER TO BISHOP  
KENNET—DEATH OF THE MINISTER OF ST. JOHN'S.

It must have been anything but conducive to the sale of the *Ducatus Leodiensis* that its publication was coincident with a great political crisis. Contemporaneous, or nearly so, with Thoresby's great literary venture, the result of so many years' labour, were the Accession of the House of Hanover, the death of Louis XIV, and the Jacobite rising of 1715. The loss of his Diary at this eventful time is much to be regretted, but we have in his correspondence some scattered notices of the occurrences of the day. He could not but take particular interest in the impeachment of Harley, to whose famous library he had had access, and in the British Museum there is the following letter :—\*

"Sir,

"According to your desire I have hereunto annexed the Heads of Articles exhibited against the Earl of Oxford.

"I shall take the liberty to trouble you with a small parcel for my sisters, and I am, with a great respect,

"Sir,

"For

"Your most obedient Serv<sup>t</sup>.

"Ralph Thoresby, Esq.

"THO. BANCKES."

"These."

\* Add. M.S.S. 15,946, a volume entitled "Letters of English Statesmen," in which a number of original letters and engraved portraits are bound together.

Then follow heads of the sixteen articles of impeachment.

In Bishop Nicholson's letter commending the Ducatus, there is allusion to the above impeachment, and to the French King's death. In another letter, also written from Westminster, and on the same day, 27 Aug. 1715, Mr. Chamberlain, J.P., of Petty France, takes up the latter subject with a hopeful view of the consequences, and then winds up with the following news:—

“I shall conclude this letter (being just returned from doing justice in the camp, and very weary), with telling you that Lord Mar, General Hamilton, and other disaffected persons are privately landed in Scotland, where the King has caused several Scottish Lords, and the famous author of the *Memoirs of Scotland*,\* to be taken up, and they are in quest of more; so that in a short time I doubt not but the enemies of His Majesty will be all secured, or scattered for ever,—to which, I am sure, you will say again Amen, as well as

“Dear Sir,

“Yours, &c.

“J. C.”

The Earl of Mar and General Hamilton had secretly quitted London at the beginning of the month, sailing to Scotland in a collier; and on the very day when Mr. Chamberlain thus sanguinely anticipated that the arrests made under a suspension of the Habeas Corpus Act would nip rebellion in the bud, a meeting was held at Mar's Highland home to concert measures for enthroning James the Third. In little more than a week the Earl raised his standard at Brae Mar; and dilatory and irresolute as Mar's subsequent procedure was, the North was kept in a ferment for several months. The combined Highlanders and Northumbrians under Forster entered Penrith on the 2nd of November, and had nearly reached Preston when the following was written to

\* George Lockhart of Carnwath.

Thoresby by Samuel Molyneux, then Secretary to the Prince of Wales, and in after time a Lord of the Admiralty:—\*

“St. James’s, Nov. 8th, 1715.”

“Sir,

“I have the favour of yours of the 22d. ult., and am glad that slight present I ventured to make you was acceptable.

“I venture to trouble you now on another account, for the service of the public. You know every body now is very impatient for news, especially from your parts; and as we have no reason to doubt but that your accounts of things would be very faithful if you pleased to send them, I take the liberty to desire that favour of you, that while the troubles in the North last, you will be so good as to let me hear from you every post: however, as I am sure what you write will be of service, and as I shall not fail to make your court therewith as shall be proper, I persuade myself you will not refuse this proposal, but will oblige me therein. The more paticular accounts you send, they will be the more acceptable.

“I am, very truly, Sir,

“Your faithful Servant,

“S. MOLYNEUX.”

Leeds itself was distant from the scene of action, although Thoresby’s apprehensions were so far aroused that he put his most valued manuscripts into hiding as a precaution against any irruption of Jacobites; but from the Bishop of Carlisle he received the sort of news which Mr. Molyneux asked for. Bishop Nicholson had returned to his Diocese, and he wrote to Thoresby from Rose Castle on the 11th of November, as follows:—

“Dear Sir,

“Ever since I had your kind letter of the 26th of last month, we have been here in a great pother, on the dry

\* He was the son of William Molyneux, author of the “Case of Ireland,” and a friend of Locke’s.

visit that was lately made us by the united rebels of Scotland and Northumberland. The posse of our county was drawn out against them, and our men were at least four to one; but having no arms, they modestly gave way; and I was an eye-witness of the enemy's vanguards marching peaceably into Penrith. Since, they have done the like into Appleby, Kendal, Kirby-Lonsdale and Lancaster; and we suppose they are now triumphant at Preston. We were told of General Carpenter's being at their heels; that he would assuredly be up with them before they could possibly reach us, and that we should have nothing more to do than to pick up some of the shattered fragments into which he would chop them: for such a service we were well enough equipped.

The Papists flock into them everywhere; ours were (themselves) confined at Carlisle; but it appeared they had servants, and concealed arms, at their service. Should the Highlanders be beaten back this way (as it is probable they will) we expect they will pillage to some purpose; but will spare our lives for the security of their own. I do not think my books in hazard; nor almost any other thing that I have, in safety: their leaders having everywhere expressed a particular indignation against

"Your ever affectionate servant,  
"W. CARLIOL."

On the day following the date of this letter, the repulse of General Wills at Preston temporarily justified the supposition that Forster was there triumphant; but his capitulation on Sunday the 13th.,\* with his whole force, upon Wills being joined by Carpenter, put an end to the insurrection in England, and spared Carlisle and its neighbourhood from the pillage which Bishop Nicholson apprehended. The news travelled quickly to London; and Mr. Molyneux on the 17th again wrote from St. James's to Thoresby, who had evidently responded to the request made to him:—

\* The surrender was then agreed upon, but it was early on Monday morning when Forster's men laid down their arms, and the King's troops entered Preston.

"I am to return you my most hearty thanks for the favour of your two letters which I have received, and which were extremely acceptable to me. I flatter myself you will continue those obligations till our good fortune in Scotland be equal to that at Preston, of which piece of good news I wish you much joy."

The Earl of Mar's rising in Scotland, though ill-conducted, was not so quickly brought to an end. After the battle of Sheriffmuir, fought on the Sunday when Forster surrendered at Preston,\* he withdrew to Perth, his opponent the Duke of Argyle to Stirling, and active hostilities were for the time suspended. The Bishop of Carlisle wrote to Thoresby from Rose on the 8th of December,—

"I find (to my great trouble) your observation to be too true—that no man can possibly set pen to paper, at this juncture, save on the subject of news. All that we see here, or think of, is the marching and counter-marching of forces, either for the King or for the Pretender. Some of the Preston troops are daily coming this way towards the Earl of Mar; whom they reckon (and I hope not without their host) they shall subdue with less difficulty than they met with in the conquest of poor General Forster. They will not probably find so much booty at Perth as they did at Preston, from whence they come laden with gold watches and silver plate, which they scatter almost as lightly as they came by it."

The Bishop's next letter is dated 23 January, 1715-16, a month after the son of James the Second had himself landed in Scotland:—

" . . . By a letter which I had (the last week) from Stirling, I am encouraged to hope that the rebellion in those parts is brought near its last period. The Earl of Seaforth has thrown himself into the King's mercy, and dispersed his followers, even after he knew of the Pretender's being landed;

\* Reports of the two events were published simultaneously, in the *Gazette* of the 19th of November.

and it is expected that Huntley and others will shortly follow his example. The Duke of Argyle is resolved (notwithstanding the extremity of the weather) to march towards Perth, as soon as his artillery arrives; and a good part of that came to Leith this day se'nnight. The pretended monarch of the rebels keeps his ship at Petershead, and will doubtless attempt the returning to it. But it is the general opinion that (alive or dead) he will be in our hands within six days after the coming of the army before the town.

"This good news forces upon me the thoughts of a London journey, as soon as the roads are passable. We have, at present, the heaviest load of snow that was ever seen (in these parts) in the memory of man, which must awhile retard the motions of, Sir,

"Your ever affectionate servant,

W. CARLIOL."

The statement that James kept his ship at Petershead is incorrect. On his landing, it at once took back to France the intelligence; and when early in February he also returned there, he sailed from Montrose. The above correspondence, had we no other evidence, implies that Thoresby was a Hanoverian; but the following very curious letter from the Rev. Nathaniel Hough, D.D., Lecturer of Kensington, a subscriber to the *Ducatus*, shows that he still had detractors and was the subject of misrepresentation:—

"Kensington, Feb. 1, 1715-16."

"Dear Cousin,\*

"I have sent you half a dozen sermons, desiring you would forward one to Huddersfield, and two to York, and dispose of the other three as directed. It is not that I put any value upon my own performances, but I am vexed to the heart that such a Protestant and a trading town as Leeds should be so

\* The writer (son of Vicar Hough of Halifax) was brother of John Hough who married Thoresby's youngest sister-in-law, and his ward, Deborah Sykes. Several of his sermons were published, of which one, in 1716, was a Visitation Sermon, against Non-jurors.

deeply tinged with Jacobitism, which we may now call Papism in effect. My Lord Burlington's chaplain told me what cool reception his Lordship met with in your town,† in a time of most imminent danger, and what backwardness Lord Down, Mr. Milner, &c. expressed, when rebellion was at their doors. I am rejoiced that worthy Mr. Killingbeck stood firm to the Protestant interest, as my author says, to whom (longing to hear of his better health) my most affectionate and humble service. I must be so free with Mr. Thoresby as to acquaint him, that he (the last man in the world I should have thought of) is represented a favourer of the Pretender's cause; for the success of which, as the Pope ordered public prayers on St. Thomas Becket's day (the 29th of December last, N.S.), so no Sincere Protestant can say Amen. Should the Lord Chief Justice of England be apprized of this, I durst not venture to receive you at Kensington, though I respect you heartily. Sure, Sir, people either remember nothing thirty years ago, or they read nothing now-a-days, when honest men of both parties have writ so admirably upon the oaths within these two months. Pray read a book writ by a more warm Tory, entitled, *King George's Title Asserted*, which, with several others, amount to me as far as demonstration. The King's title appears to be as prosperous, as it is just; but that the West Riding, which (in my time) loved King William, should slink from King George is to me surprising.

"I have sent two other papers, the original of which I drew up in six hours' time, and desire you would show it without naming the author . . . . The Archbishop of Canterbury gave sound advice to King, Lords and Commons on the 30th of January, with a full detestation of the villany of the day: but I suppose the sermon will be published. Our kind respects, and my niece's duty to yourself and Cousin Thoresby, Counsellor Wilson, Mrs. Sykes, Mrs. Peters, &c. You must needs think your vindication will be welcome to, Sir,

"Your affectionate humble Servant,

"N. HOUGH."

† Richard, third and last Earl of Burlington of the Boyle family.



Thoresby's letter of vindication is wanting, but it satisfied Mr. Hough, as we learn from the reply:—

“Kensington, Feb. 18, 1715-16.”

“Dear Sir,

“Though a false imputation laid upon your character did grievously afflict me (which your kind letter has fully dispelled, and will enable me to do you justice amongst some of your great acquaintance), yet I cannot now contain from entering upon another cause of affliction, viz., the loss of your excellent and incomparable Vicar. It is glory enough to his memory that Archbishop Sharp, at one of his Visitations, recommended him as a standard and example to his clergy. And I make no doubt of it, but he is gone to his Bishop, Master and Saviour, to receive the reward of his noble pains. When I think upon the loss of such excellent persons as Archbishop Sharp, Dr. Cook, Chancellor Pearson, Mr. Killingbeck, &c. (to all whom I had particular obligations, as well as a profound respect for their virtues and abilities), it makes me look upon my poor self with despection,\* and upon this uncertain world with contempt. Such Dissenters must be looked upon with detestation who dare traduce any of these venerable names. And as Mr. Precentor† (from whom I hear almost every week, and who, by the way, says nothing of his illness, which I hope is not hazardous), joins with you in remarking the uppishness and indiscretion, the malice and censoriousness, of some of that body in the West Riding, so I am inclined to make a third in the opinion, not without adding this double inference; 1, that no people can do the King more disservice than such as separate, and yet pretend an uncommon zeal for his interest, by vilifying true churchmen and good subjects: 2, that no disobligation received by this means should be so managed as to shake our loyalty, or cool our affection for the Government. This last is an inference which Mr. Precentor makes himself in one of his last letters.

\* An attempt to supply, with the aid of Latin, a noun wanting from the English language. Unless we may so use the participle despising, which is not also given as a noun in dictionaries, we have to substitute scorn, or contempt.

† John Richardson, Precentor of York Minster from 1711 to 1735.

"As to Mr. Killingbeck and Mr. Lodge's waiting on my Lord B——n [Burlington] I perceive his Lordship took it ill, that he had been so long in town without their taking any notice of him: and their sending was, as it is said, at the last minute, when my Lord was going into his chariot that morning, which made him return that he could not now see them. However, as my Lord is young, and as yet unversed to appear in public, I hope his modesty, zeal and good-nature (for I have the honour to be well known to his Lordship), will excuse any omissions at Leeds, which in such a hurry he might be guilty of.

Sir, I am rejoiced to have your sentiments, which are worthy of yourself, under your own hand: and had it not been for the concern of a friend and a kinsman, I should not have sought out so heartily for a vindication. God be thanked, the rebellion and the rigour of the season are both gone off together. Nature may hatch new storms, and malice new treasons, but Providence, I trust, will save us from inclemency of any kind.

"My spouse and niece are at your service: the latter sends duty and respect as due.

"I am, dear cousin, sincerely your's,

"NATH. HOUGH."

During the interval between these two letters, as may be inferred from them, died the Rev. John Killingbeck, so much valued by Thoresby both as a personal friend, and as Vicar of Leeds. Another friend and correspondent, Archdeacon Pearson, Chancellor of York, died near the same time.\* His death is the chief subject of a letter written to Thoresby from Rose on the 11th of February by the Bishop of Carlisle:—

\* On the 6th of February in his 53rd year. A monument which his widow erected in York Minster commemorates William Pearson, L.L.D., Chancellor of the Diocese of York, Archdeacon of Nottingham, Canon Residentiary and Sub-Dean of York, and Rector of Bolton Percy.

"Dear Sir,

"The affectionate concern which you express for the memory of (my best friend) Mr. Chancellor Pearson, is very obliging. By his death, I have lost the most valuable (and wisest) counsellor that I had upon earth; as well as the most beloved, and most firmly loving friend that I ever met with. The Church of York will lament with me; and so will every honest man that was acquainted with him.

"Our northern rebellion being now at an end, I am going to attend my duty in Parliament. I shall (God willing) set forward on Monday next, and hope to be at York on Wednesday, in the Evening, with that afflicted family in whose sorrows I must ever be a sharer. Your invitation of me to Leeds is very kind, and agreeable to the advice of those that are about me: but were the hazard of visiting the widow and the fatherless at York much greater than I apprehend it, I must not turn out of the way of that duty which I owe to my deceased friend.

"At my former lodgings in Old Palace-yard, any commands of your's will be obeyed by

"Your ever truly affectionate Servant,

"W. CARLIOL."\*

Thoresby communicated the double loss in a letter to old Mr. Plaxton, Rector of Berwick-in-Elmet, who wrote sadly, though characteristically, in reply:—

"Feb. 18, 1715-16."

"Dear Sir,

"I had your kind but melancholy letter on Wednesday night, which, like a chain-shot, hath wounded me in the most sensible and tender parts: all my comforts and satisfactions in this world are gone. You tell me the sad news of the death of two of my dear friends, Mr. John Killingbeck and the upright Chancellor. Mr. Killingbeck was a man in whom my soul delighted, a man without guile or cozenage; a friend

\* In 1718 Bishop Nicholson was translated from Carlisle to the See of London-derry.

who, by above fifty years' acquaintance, was not only engrafted but grown up into my affections, and united in a happy friendship with me. The worthy Chancellor (Dr. Pearson) was my fixed and constant friend; dear to me since our first happy meeting; all that was good in this vain world was to be found in him; learning without affectation; justice without lucre; religion without pretence; sincerity without pretending compliments; truth without surliness; and good manners without the niceties of this age; true to the interest of his God, his church, and friend; beloved by all good men, and even a stranger to ill-will, and the rancour of bad men. These bright and blessed stars, you tell me, are set, and gone down to everlasting rest; whilst we, dull meteors, cast a glaring light, and are almost obscured in this pall of misery.

"Friend Ralph! what shall I do? I am left alone to struggle with the adversities of this world. What comforts shall I find in Yorkshire? All my old and tried friends are gone before me,—Dr. Talbot, Mr. Thornton, the best of men, Frank Rogers,\* John Killingbeck, Mr. Chancellor, and above all, the excellent Archbishop. I need not name my old friend Dr. Watkinson, nor Gill Atkinson; these were sterling proof, and free from base alloy. If I stay here I have not three of my old friends living. I am to keep company with grandchildren and young people . . . I hope to see my native soil this year, if God spares my life, that my bones may rest as near my old friends as I can contrive. Pray give the enclosed to the good widow, with my service. My kind respects to the Angel of St. John's, to the Post Meridian, and all my old friends at Leeds. Let me hear from you; tell me what good man is to succeed good John K. God send you a true succession to his excellencies! Farewell, good friend, God give us grace to follow such laudable examples, and fit us truly for our great account! My service to all your's. I am,

"Your assured friend and servant,

"G. BARWICK."

\* The Rev. Fr. Rogers, Rector of Kirkby-Overblow, was the donor of a restoration medal in Thoresby's collection. The other names mentioned have all occurred before. Gill Atkinson was the unfortunate Rector of Methley.—*Ante*, page 143.

Killingbeck died, says Thoresby in the *Vicaria Leodiensis*, "universally lamented, Feb. 12, 1715-16, aged 66 years wanting only 3 Days, and was buried on the 16th, with a general Sorrow not only of those of the Church of *England*, but even the Dissenters." The Funeral Sermon was preached by Thoresby's "cousin," the Rev. Joseph Cookson, M.A., who having been Lecturer at the Parish Church fully six years under Mr. Killingbeck, now succeeded him as Vicar; and "upon the next Pillar to his Grave, within the Rails on the South Side of the Altar," a monument to Killingbeck was erected, bearing a Latin inscription from the pen of Parson Plaxton of Berwick-in-Elmet.

In Thoresby's published Correspondence there is a letter from Hearne, 23 Oct. 1715, saying he had been informed "from a very good hand" that Thoresby was writing the Life of Archbishop Tillotson, and that he designed "to meddle with a controversy that happened not long after the Revolution," between All Souls' College, Oxford, and its Chaplain Mr. Procast, afterward Archdeacon of Berks, and since dead. Hearne advised that the then almost forgotten controversy should be left unspoken of. To this letter, a foot-note of Thoresby's is appended:—

"It is a mistake, I not being in the least concerned in writing the Life of this excellent Archbishop; but being informed by Mr. Gale that a gentleman, in or about London, was engaged therein, I at his request communicated two original letters, one from Clare Hall, in Latin, and another from All Soul's, in English."

Thoresby replied to Hearne on the 2nd of November, as appears from the following hitherto unpublished and somewhat amusing letter, in the possession of Mr. Wurtzburg. It is written upon the fly-leaf of a printed advertisement of Hearne's edition of *Acta Apostolorum Græco-Latine litteris majusculis*, of

which there were to be only 120 copies, on Royal paper, stitched, at ten shillings each:—

“Worthy Sir,

“I am mightily obliged to you for your letter of the 2<sup>d</sup>. Instant. I shew’d it to the person immediately concerned, who is the same that acquainted me that you was compiling the Archbps Life. I am afraid since, that he is not so valuable a man as you would think he is from my former Letter. So whoever the compiler is he need not fear, I think, to insert the Controversy, provided he can get good Materials. This Gentleman started the objection to me. I suppose he may think that himself shall be brought in, and upon that account may imagine that he shall be exposed. Mr. Hardy subscribed for the Collectanea. He paid ten shillings. The set lyes still by me. I shall dispose of it now the Acts are finished unless he takes care about it.

“Sir,

“Your obliged humble Serv<sup>t</sup>.

“Oxon Nov.

27th 1715.”

“THO: HEARNE.”

“For Mr. Ralph Thoresby at Leeds in Yorkshire.”

Among Thoresby’s other correspondents at this time were Arthur Collins, who had given up his business and retired to Streatham, but had commenced printing his History of Baronets, and wanted an account of the Constables of Flam-borough; and Edward Curll, the noted bookseller, who communicated a request from Mr. Rawlinson, of St. John’s College, Oxford, for the loan of a M.S. copy of Erdeswick’s Survey of Staffordshire to collate with his own. “Put to press this day,” says the letter, which concludes,—

“This he hopes from you, as you are a lover of antiquities, and a promoter of learning, and your speedy answer to this request will very much oblige him, our club of antiquaries, and more particularly, Sir, your obliged humble servant.”

“E. CURLL.”

The M.S. asked for was No. 44 folio in Thoresby's Catalogue,—

“Mr. *Sampson Erdeswick's History of Staffordshire*, writ towards the later end of 2 *Elizabeth's* Reign, containing the Antiquities of the same: With a Postscript added 1673, shewing that in little more than sixty years, one half of the Estates had changed their Owners, &c. Don. Rev. *Gul. Tong*. Coventr.”

Curll's request for the loan of it was responded to.

But Thoresby's principal literary correspondent at this time was the Rev. John Strype, engaged upon his *Life of Whitgift*. He wrote from Low Leyton on the 1st of March 1715-16,—

“Sir,

“I was in some concern for you, till your answer to my letter came, wherein you give a good reason for your silence so long. Your fears of those heady, high-minded rebels might justly divert your thoughts to self-preservation, and the securing of those things that were dear to you. I congratulate you with all my heart, that your parts are now at more rest and safety; though we that were farther off were not without apprehensions, if God, for our sins, should have permitted them to come farther, and had not so soon clothed them with shame. . . . .

“There were two or three other queries I made in my last letter to you, concerning some other tracts in your folio manuscripts; and particularly the opinion of Archbishop Hutton of certain matters to be laid before the King, anno 1603.\* At your leisure pray give me some account thereof; because they seem to tend considerably to the illustration of the History of the Church. . . . .

\* In No. 37, a volume of Miscellanies,—“Archbishop *Hutton's* opinion of certain matters like to be called in question before the King, Anno, 1603, touching appropriations, the Government of the Church, Common Prayer, &c.” The volume was a gift from one of the Lords Fairfax.

"Our booksellers care not yet to print books of any bulk, which causeth my History of Archbishop Whitgift to stay a little longer. I am,

"Dear Sir,

"Your very humble servant,

"JOHN STRYPE."

The next letter is dated on the 3rd of May:—

"Sir,

"You have extremely obliged me by your last letter, which contained Archbishop Hutton's judgement of certain questions which, I fully agree with you, were sent him by Archbishop Whitgift for his resolution of . . . . That volume of your's, concerning this and various other miscellaneous matters, is of high value, and the more, having formerly belonged to Archbishop Matthew, and after to the Rev. M. Fairfax, his chaplain. Those other writings you mention, contained in that volume, viz., the letter written by the said Matthew to Archbishop Hutton, I do earnestly desire you to take the pains to transcribe, and send me; and withal (because I have partly your kind offer to do it), let me have the rest of the questions, which begin at question the fourth (where you left off in your letter to me), with the answers given sent also to me at your best leisure; and if it be any recompense for communicating those writings to me, I have one letter of Mr. Calvin's own writing, and a pretty large one, to the Duke of Somerset, in King Edward's time, which I will send you; and if you have no autographs of Peter Martyr, Martin Bucer, Paul Fagius, Peter Alexander, all entertained together at Archbishop Cranmer's house at Lambeth, I will also send you a letter of their's to Cecil and Cheke, with all their names subscribed therein, dated from thence; to which I will add one of John Sleidan, the historian, and another of John Alasco, both to Secretary Cecil, if you have not any autographs of them; but you must tell me where I must leave them for you, that they may come safe to your hands, and conceal from whence you have them. . . . .

"Your very humble servant,

"J. STRYPE."



Thoresby's reply from Leeds on the 8th of May is among the Cole M.S.S. Complying with the above request, he sent the latter part of Archbishop Hutton's paper; but said,—

“I spent two hours in searching after Abp. Toby Matthew's letter, which I thought I could have found in a moment, yet tho' I have got my M.S.S. placed again in order, yet some of the original letters, which, having a more particular value, I had singled out and concealed when the rebels made their approaches, have not yet recovered their stations.”

In looking for it he had found another original paper, and he mentions others, including an original letter from Abp. Whitgift to Lord Cobham in 1592, concerning his daughter Lady Sandes; and this letter is printed in Strype's Life of Whitgift with a reference to Thoresby in the margin. Thoresby further says that he had bought Bp. Aylmer's Life, when last in London, and with it “was mightily pleased.” He had now most of Strype's Works, had subscribed for Whitgift's Life, and he offered the use of some more letters for another volume of “Annals” if there were to be one.

Strype answered on the 16th, thanking Thoresby for his communications. He then continued,—

“I do herewith send you those autographs that I promised you, and one more which I do not find in your catalogue, *viz.*, Dr. Thomas Wylson, the civilian, Secretary of State with Walsingham, a man of great learning, that may stand upon equal foot with Cheke and Smith, and an exile for religion, and so will be the more esteemed by you, and whose works I know you are well acquainted with. I intend to leave them, according to your order, at Mr. Collins's. I have but one that I can find of Cheke's, which I cannot tell how to part with.

“Sir, you oblige me in showing yourself so well pleased with the Life of Bishop Elmer, and with what other things I have written . . . Upon your kind offer I shall be very free with you to receive anything you can accommodate me with, for

the continuation of my Annals of the Reformation; which, if I live and enjoy any measure of health, I intend, by God's help, to go on with. I thank you heartily for your prayers and good wishes; and, in requital, I beseech God to bless you and continue your life, and the lives of such honest, sincere, good Christians as you, as public blessings."

On the 26th Thoresby acknowledged the receipt of the autographs, and Strype's next letter is dated the 9th of June:—

"Sir,

"The more I read of your transcripts concerning that famous Conference,\* the more I am unsatisfied until I have drawn from you whatsoever you have more of it, and particularly the remainder of the Bishop of Durham's letter, where you left off in your large, but obliging letter to me; for which I heartily thank you. I have the printed Conference, and do compare that and Bishop Matthew's relation together, and think it will much improve that notable part of our Church History. You break it off abruptly at these words, 'of all things, and also concerning the oath.' But I hope you will continue it to the end. . . .

"I am glad you have the autographs safely come to hand, which I was in some concern for, being forced to leave them in the hands of a mere stranger, for your friend, that brought them to you. As for Dr. Wylson, I find, since I sent you his letter, that I had presented you with one of his before; though you do not, I think, mention his name among your autographs. Where he was born I cannot tell, but the character I gave you of him was true enough; I add, he was not only an exile, but was put into the Inquisition at Rome and hardly escaped. . . .

"A hint of Dr. Lightfoot's makes you mention a little wonder to me, *viz.*, of a lady near you, whom you style the Hebrew lady, for her skill, I suppose, in that learning. Pray who is she? Do your Jacobites make their mobs with you still, as they do hereabouts with so much confidence and affected dis-

\* At Hampton Court.

tinctions: and what reformation is wrought at length among the clergy in your northern parts? I should be glad to hear they grow wise. I am, dear Sir,

“Your very affectionate friend,

“And humble Servant,

“J. STRYPE.”

In answer to this Thoresby wrote as follows:—\*

“Leedes, 16 June 1716.”

“Rev. Sir,

“I herewith transmit remainder of Bishop Matthews’s letter about the Conference, which I revised, my Son from Queen’s College reading this copy to me.† If you observe anything further in the catalogue of my M.S.S. that may be of use to you, I will do the best I can to gratify you: but I send this away presently that I be not prevented by the workmen, being to remove my library and curiosities to a more convenient retirement in the garden next the court behind the house where I now live: which being to the street, I remove from and let it to our new Lecturer: so that it will be some weeks, not to say months, before I can get my books and papers in order. Many scores of names are omitted in the printed catalogue of my autographs: but Dr. Wylson for sure had been inserted, if I had known so much of him before as by your instructive letter I now do. The Hebrew Lady I gave a hint of is one Mrs. Bland of Beeston in this parish, who being instructed therein by the Baron von Helmond, has since taught the

\* Additional M.S.S. (Cole) 5353.

† Thoresby’s eldest son, Ralph, now in his 19th year, had returned home from Queen’s College, Cambridge, about a fortnight before the date of this letter. In the published correspondence are two letters from his tutor, Mr. Langwith, speaking highly of him, and giving statements of his College bill, which will bear comparison, on the score of economy, with corresponding bills now-a-days. In the second of these letters, written on the 25th of May 1716, Mr. Langwith says,—“Yesterday your son surprised me with an account that a horse was come for him by the carrier in order to his journey home”; and after expressing regret, he draws comfort from the anticipation that the son would pursue his studies under his father’s eye. The bill for the quarter ending at Lady Day amounted, including £1 1s. 6d. lent, to £9 10s. 1d., from which there was a deduction of £1 4s. 6d.

sacred language to her son and daughters. This is the more remarkable because she is a sort of quaker, but the young generation are constant to the Church: tho' both generations agree in what is not so agreeable to me, I mean a due sense of our happiness in the Protestant Succession under His Majesty K. George, so that we are obliged to forbear discourse of news.\* When Abp. Whitgift's picture is engraved you will remember my collection of effigies of learned Prelates.

"Yours, &c.,

"RALPH THORESBY."

Mr. Strype replied about a month afterward,—

"Sir,

"You have very much obliged me with the completed letter of Bishop Matthew, giving account of the Conference at Hampton Court, so diligently and carefully transcribed. . . .

"You are now (thanks be to God) out of fear of the rebels, always the enemies and destroyers of literature, and the best books. I leave you to the busy re-placing of your manuscripts and curiosities in your repositories, and wish you long to enjoy and improve them; and I hope your Lecturer that comes to be so near you will prove a person agreeable to you.

"Sir, you may be sure of a picture of Bishop Whitgift when it shall be cut and printed. I thank you for the account of the lady skilled in the Holy language, and of her propagating the knowledge of it. It is pity such studiousness should not bend to another good study: viz., loyalty. You cannot but be pleased with those many printed

\* Mrs. Elizabeth Bland was the wife of Nathaniel Bland of Beeston Hall, and Lord of the Manor, who wished to have the Sacrament administered at their Chapel of Ease, where he had made provision for it (Vol. I, p. 302, *n*). She was daughter and heiress of Robert Fisher, of Long Acre, her husband having been a Linen Draper in London before succeeding his father in the estate at Beeston. There are letters from her to Thoresby in the printed correspondence which confirm the above statement of her knowledge of Hebrew, and in one of them she thanks him for the loan of Lightfoot's Temple Service alluded to in Strype's foregoing letter. In Thoresby's Diary, 28 June 1711, is,—“In walks backward, finished a piece of Baron von Helmont's, which Mrs. Bland would have me read, but is, I confess, in a great measure unintelligible to me, if not downright ~~enthusiastical~~.” She is elsewhere mentioned in the Diary.

sermons, preached by Bishops and others the 7th of June, and especially with the Bishop of Ely's,\* showing so plainly and evidently what would necessarily follow if the Rebellion had succeeded. . . .

"I am put on afresh to review and prepare Stow's Survey for the press, which the booksellers concerned are now resolved to hasten the printing. . . . .

"Next week, God willing, I take my journey to my Rectory in Sussex; a long journey for my age: for though it be a sinecure, and an honest Vicar resident, yet as long as God gives me health I resolve once a year to go and preach the Gospel to them, and to do the best offices I can for their souls, and to see what proficiency the children I keep there at school do make, and leave some good, practical books of devotion with them.

"I am, dear Sir,

"Your most humble Servant,

"J. STRYPE."

In the Cole M.S.S. are other two letters from Thoresby to Strype. The first, 3 August 1717, implies that he had been endeavouring to obtain subscribers to Strype's publications, with slight encouragement. "I am so far," wrote Thoresby, "from receiving such rewards and advantages from the generality of visitants that I think they are often jealous I should have some sinister end in the proposals of other's works that I communicate." He informed Strype that Archbishop Sandys had undoubtedly been buried at Southwell. Thoresby had never been there himself, but the late Vicar of Nottingham, Mr. Clarke (a former Master of the Leeds Free Grammar School), sent him a copy of the inscription on Sandys' Monument, afterward destroyed when the Minster was set on fire by lightning, 5 November 1711, about 10 o'clock at night, the fire continuing until eight the next morning. Thoresby

\* Fleetwood, previously Bishop of St. Asaph.

added,—“Some censorious people looked upon it as a judgement for that there was, they say, no Divine Service celebrated there that day, which I hope is as false as the other is uncharitable.”

The second letter is as follows:—

“Leedes, 9 Feb. 1718-19.”

“Rev. Sir,

“I have perused your book with great satisfaction. Your performance (of Abp. Whitgift’s Life) is so well that I wish you would proceed to Abp. Abbot (for I am not so fond of his immediate successor Bancroft, who was too warm), and I can furnish you with some originals beside what I formerly transcribed relating to the lectures (of which he, with Abp. Toby Matthews, were pious encouragers) which will be of use. Upon the whole of this celebrated Abp. Whitgift, I think, as to his high station, he was rather to be pitied than envied; because in so continued an uneasiness betwixt the Papists on one hand, and some of the more rigid Puritans upon the other: and must confess that, at least some of the Star-Chamber proceedings, and those *ex mero officio*, are disagreeable enough to my temper, who think it more eligible to pass calmly and quietly thro’ this wrangling world. Your friend Mr. Bonnell’s character is more pleasing to me, who, tho’ sincerely for the Public Establishment, yet always expressed a true Christian tenderness to those of different sentiments.

“To the old man, mentioned in my last, who is yet living, aged 112, eats, drinks and sleeps heartily, and can spin a pound and a half of wool per diem,\* I may add another, who came yesterday with two of his grandsons to enter their names for my Lord Wharton’s Bibles. This man, tho’ not so old, is yet

\* The same man, evidently, of whom Jonathan Priestly, of Winteredge, near Halifax, wrote as follows in April 1716:—“Sir, I understand you desire to know the age of my neighbour, John Roberts, who was born in February 1607, and is now going of 109 years of age, hearty and well, spins a pound and a half of wool each day. I had two papers signed by the minister and churchwarden of Padiham, where he was baptized; but one or other has got them from me, but can get another any time.”

more remarkable in another respect, as having been above nineteen years married with his sixth wife. There were four men in the same town of Hunslet, a mile from this place, had had twenty one wives among them. I am tedious, but always your

“Affectionate friend and

“humble Servant,

“RALPH THORESBY.”

In the Lansdowne M.S.S.\* there is a letter written by Thoresby to Kennet, Bishop of Peterborough, 4 April 1719, the first part complying with a request for an account of John Harrison's benefactions to the town of Leeds. In the concluding part Thoresby speaks of his papers as still being in confusion, but refers it all to the Jacobites, without any mention of the change of house spoken of three years before in his correspondence with Styrpe:—

“I shall be glad to see another Edition of your Lordship's Case of Impropropriations, or rather, if I was to speak for my own ends, a supplement thereto, to save me the charge of repurchasing the former. I have other matters of this nature to communicate, but I cannot at present have leisure to transcribe, or indeed to search for, being in loose papers and journals. I have scarce ever got my papers into a right order since the late Rebellion obliged me to conceal some of the most valuable (as Autographs of Calvin, Beza and other pious and learned Reformers at home and abroad), and am now not without some fear of another. My only hope is that the great God who hath so wonderfully appeared for the Reformed Church hitherto will yet (notwithstanding our demerits), protect and deliver His Majesty and this sinful nation from the hands of the wicked and unreasonable men, which is part of the daily prayers of, My Lord, Your

“Lordship's

“Most obedient and

“Most Humble Servant,

“RALPH THORESBY.”

\* Lansdowne M.S.S., 989. This letter is referred to in Vol. I, page 10.

During this part of Thoresby's life there was a change at both the churches in his town. Two years after the death of Mr. Killingbeck, died also the Rev. Henry Lodge, of St. John's, on the last day of January 1718, when only in his thirty-ninth year. The new Vicar, Mr. Cookson, preached a Funeral Sermon, but there was a second preached by the Master of the Free Grammar School, and afterward published with the following Title-Page:—

“A Sorrowful Respect paid to the Dead vindicated, and proper Limits set to it. In a Sermon preached in the New Church of Leeds, February 16th, 171 $\frac{1}{2}$ ; on the occasion of the Death of the Rev. Henry Lodge, M.A., late Minister of that Church. . . . To which are prefixed some occurrences of his Life. By Thomas Barnard, M.A., Master of the Grammar School in Leeds. York: Printed by Grace White, for Francis Hildyard, Bookseller, in Stonegate, 1718.”

It may be inferred, from this, that as yet Leeds could not boast of a printing-press.\*

In the short Life prefixed to the Sermon it is stated that Mr. Lodge was born at Patrick-Brompton, 11 Jan<sup>y</sup> 1679-80, his Father being “present Vicar of Burton-Leonard.” He finished school at Sedberg, “under the care and diligence of the late celebrated Mr. Wharton, St. John's Coll., Cambridge, Rector of Copgrave;” and, “upon the Vacancy of the New Church of Leeds, by the Death of the Reverend and Worthy Mr. Bright Dixon,† the Electors, Gentlemen of Gravity and Prudence, nominated him Successor, to their own lasting Honour, and the great Happiness of the Town. When he

\* The first *Leeds Mercury* was started two years later; but it is somewhat remarkable that Thoresby never mentions or alludes to it, although we have portions of his Diary at the time, and for several following years.

† *Ante*, page 208, *Note*.



came amongst us, he shone with Astonishment; every Mouth was full of his Praises: And we soon found he only wanted before to be publicly known, in Order to be publicly Beloved and Admir'd." By the Archbishop of York, Mr. Lodge was made Prebend of the Collegiate Church of Ripon.

Taking for Text the 14th verse of Psalm xxxv, "I behaved myself as though he had been my friend or brother: I bowed down heavily, as one that mourneth for his mother," Mr. Barnard said that a Sermon had already been preached by the Vicar,—

"But let it be excused from me, whose lasting obligations to him loudly call for and demand it: From me, who was adorned by his Friendship, instructed by his Conversation, and edified by his Example: From me, whom his Influence first brought into a very public Station, and whom he sustained and conducted in it by friendly Recommendations and wise Directions: From me, with whom he shared in all the prosperous and afflicting Circumstances of Life, with a Joy and a Concern equal to my own.

" . . . . Let us now take a view of the Great, and a Good Man (to whose Memory these Labours are but a small Payment of the great deal that I am indebted) in those Parts of him especially that he had in an uncommon, eminent and distinguish'd Degree.

"The Liturgy of our Church was one great Object of his Study. . . . His Mastery in this Matter was so great that I always thought he talked upon it with as great a compass of Learning, and Solidity of Judgment, as others writ. . . .

"You know your present commendable Decency in Divine Worship took its rise from his Example, and was settled by his Directions.

"The occasional offices had the same Place in his Esteem, and were perform'd with the same Advantage and Success. Persons return'd from the Font with a serious Sense of their own Baptismal Engagements: From the Grave, with proper

Reflections upon their own Mortality : And the Bridegroom wept whilst he was taking Possession of his Joys."\*

Mr. Lodge's successor at St. John's was Dr. Samuel Brooke, who had competed unsuccessfully with Mr. Cookson for the Vicarage, on the death of Killingbeck.

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#### ADDITIONAL NOTE.

*Killingbeck, Vicar of Leeds.*—Page 299.

In Thoresby's Diary, under the date 28 December 1709, there is the following:—

"At Church; made a collection for the Charity-School (viz.: 15*l* 3*s*. 3*d*., in which were two guineas, supposed to be given by Mr. Milner and Mr. Thornton, both being eminent for charity)."

The very sermon preached by Mr. Killingbeck on this occasion is in a volume in the curious and extensive Library at Bamburgh Castle, the bequest of Archdeacon Sharpe to the Trustees of Lord Crew's Charity, and comprising books which had been formerly the property of his Grand-father, John Sharp, Archbishop of York. The Sermon was from Luke xiv, 14: "And thou shalt be blessed, for they cannot recompense thee; for thou shalt be recompensed at the resurrection of the just;" and the Title-Page, with the extracts here subjoined, may interest some on account of the local association, and as a specimen of a Charity Sermon by a Vicar of Leeds at the beginning of the last century:—

\* These extracts are taken from a volume of sermons in Dr. Williams's Library.

“The Blessedness and Reward of Charity asserted.”

---

“In a  
SERMON  
Preach'd in the  
PARISH-CHURCH  
of  
ST. PETER'S IN LEEDS,  
December 28, 1709,  
(Being Innocent's Day)  
For promoting the  
CHARITY-SCHOOL  
erected there.”

---

“By John Killingbeck, B.D., Vicar of Leeds, and Prebendary of York, and sometimes Fellow of Jesus College in Cambridge.”

---

“London. Printed for H. Clements, at the Half-Moon, in St. Paul's Church-Yard, 1710.”

---

There is a Dedication “to the Worshipful the Mayor, Recorder, Aldermen, and Gentlemen who are contributors to the Charity School at Leeds in the County of York;” the Mayor being Henry Iveson for the second time, the Recorder, Mr. Thornton. The Vicar says,—

“Amongst those many Respects and Favours I have received from you, I do not esteem this the least (which, to your Honour, I ought to mention here) that upon the first Proposal of erecting a Charity-School in this Town, you were pleas'd to espouse it with a very cheerful Readiness and Zeal, to abet it with your Authority, to encourage it with your Subscriptions, and still to superintend the Government of it with your watchful Care.”

The extracts which follow are from the Sermon itself:—

"Let it be acknowledg'd, to the Glory of Almighty God, and to the Honour of this Church and Nation, that Christianity is in a different State from what it was in the Times of Persecution, and that we have very good Laws for the Provision and Maintenance of the Poor; but do not those very Laws make a Distinction between those that are poor through Idleness and Sloth, and those that are so by Providence and Misfortune? Between sturdy, vagrant, strolling Beggars, and those that are so by the Hand of Heaven, by Fire, Losses, Sickness, Old Age, or the Oppression of a great Charge? The former indeed rather deserve the hand of Judgement and Correction, whilst the latter are real Objects of Christian Compassion and Relief. . . . .

"Let it be acknowledg'd further that our Laws for the Maintenance of the really Poor are constituted with much Prudence and Foresight, yet there may be many particular Cases which come not under the Letter, yet are within the general Reason and Intendment of them. How many cases are there where Charity is extremely wanted, and yet not clamourously called for? How often is a Man's Modesty and Fear, his Birth and Education, his former Circumstances and Figure in the World, made a Snare to himself and his Family? So that he will rather sit silently down under his Misfortunes, droop and sink under his Miseries, than make his Condition known, lest he meet with a Denial or Reproof? If there be sometimes such cases as these (and I fear they are not unfrequent) what a Shame, what a Sin it would be, amidst so much Plenty and Luxury as abound in this Nation, to suffer such to starve and perish for want of the necessary supports of Life? . . . . .

"Common Charities given at our Doors, or in the Streets, are but a present and uncertain Relief; at the best the hungry bowels of the Poor are then only refresh'd, or their naked Bodies cloath'd, and it may be the next Week, or at some convenient Distance of Time, they come again with new Wants and a repeated Importunity; in the mean while we know not how well they have deserv'd, or what use they made of our former Kindness, whether they apply'd it to their Necessities or their Prodigalities, whether they did not expend it in Drunkenness or Riot at some merry Meeting and Revelling Junts of jolly Beggars."

## M.S. Letters in the Bodleian Library.

LETTERS TO DR. CHARLETT AND ANSTIS—WARBURTON'S MAP OF YORKSHIRE—THORESBY AND WARBURTON IN YORK—ALDERMAN MILNER'S BENEFACTIONS—SICKNESS IN LINCOLNSHIRE—HYDROPHOBIA—A SERPENT-BITE AND ITS RESULT—WILSON, BISHOP OF MAN—FURTHER LETTERS TO CHARLETT.

AMONG the letters written to Thoresby on the publication of his *Ducatus Leodiensis*, quoted in a previous chapter, there is one from Dr. Charlett, Master of University College, Oxford. It is the only one from him given by Mr. Hunter, and his name does not occur in any part of Thoresby's published Diary. But out of eleven original letters by Thoresby, and preserved among the Ballard M.S.S. in the Bodleian Library, at Oxford, nine are addressed to Dr. Charlett. These letters have not hitherto been printed; but they are mentioned in an editorial foot-note to one of Thoresby's letters in the *Epistolary Correspondence of Bishop Nicholson*; with the remark that,—“To future Biographers of Mr. Thoresby the following references to Ballard's Collections of M.S. Letters (in the Bodleian Library) may be serviceable.”

The earlier of these letters were written during the five years' interval in Thoresby's Diary, which commences shortly before the *Ducatus* was published; and we learn from the first of them that at that time Thoresby had Dr. Charlett among his visitors in Leeds:—

“Reverend S<sup>r</sup>

“I look upon myself as obliged not only to acquaint you that there came no letters directed to you (for I enquired constantly at the Post Office), but especially to acknowledge the great favour of your visit, and the honour you conferred upon my poor Museum by your presence. You was pleased to promise an addition by some autographs of the celebrated Dr. Bathurst, &c. When the curiosity’s [without] intrinsic value in gold or silver, I can without blushing remind my friends of their kind intentions. I have lately obtained a valuable present of near 20 vols. of M.S.S. in Fol<sup>o</sup> relating to the unhappy times 1655, &c., containing lists of persons disaffected to the Government. It is not fit to trouble you with my service to Dr. Hudson & Mr. Hearne, being at a distance; but Mr. Hodgson being of your own College, you will pardon the freedom of

“S<sup>r</sup>

“Your most humble Servant,

“Leedes, 6 Oct<sup>r</sup> 1718.”

“RALPH THORESBY.”

“Pray whether may not Clavis Calendaria challenge the same Author you mentioned, for tho’ only M.A. 1700, he since may be D.D. I received lately a very learned epistle from Mr. Anstis in reply to a Query about Arms.”

“For

“The Revered Dr. Charlett

“Master of University College

“Oxford.”

Only two letters from Mr. Anstis are in the printed Correspondence, and neither is the one referred to.

The next of the letters to Dr. Charlett was written within the same month:—

“Honoured S<sup>r</sup>.

“I could not immediately reply to your kind letter where-with I was honoured, till I had the opportunity of acquainting the gentlemen mentioned therein with the honour you put upon them, and the mighty character you was pleased to pass

upon our northern climate and its inhabitants, which I must own is kind and just with respect to others, tho' what relates to myself is the effect of your late candour and humanity, for which you are noted. I showed some of our magistrates what you writ relating to a Survey of the Parish, to shame them for their former neglect, and urge them to rectify it in the designed great new map, but they are semper iidem. Mr. Warburton may do it at his own expense, or not at all. Ours is a great trading town, and a great happiness on that account to all these parts of England; but the generality of the inhabitants are so immersed in business of that nature, that they are not solicitous for other matters. At our Vicar's request I have writ (as a specimen of the historical part of the Ducatus Leod: which in its full [proportions] would take up more time than I can reasonably expect to survive) the Vicaria Leodiensis, and yeilded to have it published in 8vo., but believe it will stick for want of encouragement to defray the expenses, if I give my pains for a few copies. I think it not prudent to prejudice my poor family (which is already in circumstances strait enough thro' an unconscionable Dissenter that keeps his Coach, yet will not pay his fathers just debt of above a thousand pounds)\* by expending 20 or 30*l*., and have so slender a prospect of persons to take any considerable number off my hands, and 'tis too small to engage Subscribers for.

"I can return no learned news from these parts. I immure myself in my little cell, wherein I seldom move (save twice a day to church), only am refreshed now and then with letters from the Bishops of Derry and Lincoln, about M.S.S., &c. The former writes that I guessed right in supposing that he was now under an obligation to publish an Irish Historical Library, and owns he is got to the last chapter; by the same token that he has therein expressed his gratitude for the favour I procured for him, and made use of my letter about it to Sir Hans Sloane (Phil. Trans. No. 297),† but I hope we shall soon

\* The Son of Thoresby's partner in the Oil Mill, Samuel Ibbetson.—See Vol. I, page 347.

† Relating to James the Second's Pewter money coined in Ireland, Vol. I, page 424.

meet with a most accurate description of the famous Giant's Causeway, the former being defective in what his Lordship thinks the most observable in the whole wonder. But I fear I am too tedious, yet cannot conclude without giving you the particular respects and services of our good Vicar, and the ingenious Schoolmaster \* whose favour you mention, and beg leave to be admitted into the number of your servants, who am now and ever,

“Your most obliged and most humble servant,

“RALPH THORESBY.”

“Leedes, 25th Oct. 1718.”

“I hope you received my former letter.”

Thoresby's intimate friend and correspondent, Bishop Nicholson, had been translated from Carlisle to the Irish See of Derry in the month of March preceding the date of the above letter. Hence Thoresby's supposition that he was *now* under an obligation to publish an Irish Historical Library. After the three parts of his English Historical Library he had, in 1702, published one for Scotland. The Irish was published in the same year with Thoresby's Vicaria, 1724.

The letter of the 15th of November 1718, mentioned by Thoresby in the one following, is wanting:—

“Reverend Sr

“Yours of the 14th arrived safe, as I hope mine of the 15th did, it has been twice at least our mutual hap to write to each other the day after the date of one another's letters. So mine of the 25th and yours of the 26th Oct., yours of the 14th and mine of the 15th November. Your kind wishes for Mr. Warburton's successes are efficacious, besides one letter from himself, I had another from Mr. Robinson that is very agreeable. I was afraid the wetness of the season would have prevented his progress in the actual survey, but the said Justice acquaints me that the wheel passed by his house in

\* Probably Thos. Barnard, A.M., elected Master of the Leeds Grammar School in 1712.



its road from Cleveland towards Scarborough the 24th, and that Mr. Warburton himself staid with him from the 23rd to the 26th. From Scarborough he designs for Burlington, and thence to Hull for meeting the shipmasters while ashore, and then he designs in a visit at Leedes. He has already about 300 subscriptions. I have finished what the Bp. of Derry desired concerning the Irish coins, for his Lordship's Historical Library for that country, and am now going to revise what I writ some years ago for the 3 Ridings of this County, in order to a new edition of Camden's Britannia, having received a letter from the Bishop of Lincoln upon that subject, with a compliment how much his Lordship and that work are obliged to me. I am glad of a new edition, because it will give a fair opportunity of correcting several mistakes in the last edition, both of the translators of some parts, and the authors of the additions in others. I cannot but mention one in this County lest it should pass for mine, but was Dr. Johnstone's, who, having seen a M.S. of a former Antiquary who had mistaken a Roman coin, whereupon he fancied he had found Calcaria for Tadcaster, got it inserted as a great curiosity; but the original M.S. being now in this Musæum, discovers the mistake of CAESARAVA for CALCARA, &c. But to wave other arguments, if it had been designed for a Roman station, or name of any places, it had never appeared among the Emperor's titles, but upon the Revers. But I am too tedious, yet hope for pardon, being S<sup>r</sup>

“Your most humble Serv<sup>t</sup>

“RALPH THORESBY.”

“Leedes, 6 Dec<sup>r</sup> 1718.”

It appears from the next letter that Dr. Charlett was at this time unable himself to write, and employed an amanuensis:—

“Reverend S<sup>r</sup>

“I am sorry every time I look upon your name by another hand, but hope that by this time the painful token of riches (for the Proverb I hope is as true in the South as it is frequent in the North) is removed, and only the substantial benefit remains to one who knows so well how to

improve them for the encouragement of learning and ingenuity. I received lately another letter from Mr. Warburton to request assistance as to the Roman Military way through this County, and have just given the best I am capable of, which I hope will be improved by his actual Survey. When he makes me his promised visit, I shall make a further conjecture. We talk again of building a new Church at this Town; but I am glad that I have succeeded in getting a very worthy gentleman to settle a perpetual fund for reading the prayers every evening in our Parish Church, which is attended with good success, the number of Communicants being sensibly increased, and a spirit of piety advanced in the rising generation. I long, Dear S<sup>r</sup>, to see your own handwriting, being most affectionately,

“Your most humble and obed<sup>t</sup>. Serv<sup>t</sup>”

“RALPH THORESBY.”

“Leedes, 17 Jan. 171<sup>1</sup>/<sub>3</sub>.”

The next two letters of the series are those not addressed to Dr. Charlett. The first is a short one:

“Honoured S<sup>r</sup>”

“I was honoured with yours, and beg the continuance of your favourable opinion and good offices to,

S<sup>r</sup>”

“Your most humble Serv<sup>t</sup>,

“Leedes, 17 Jan 171<sup>1</sup>/<sub>3</sub>.”

“RALPH THORESBY.

“For the Honourable George Clarke, Esq., Member of Parl<sup>t</sup>, at Mrs. Hume’s in Stanhope Court, near Charing Crosse, London.”

The second of the two, written to Mr. Anstis, refers to the letter about Arms mentioned in a preceding postscript:—

“Honoured S<sup>r</sup>”

“’Tis an age since I received the favour of a line from you, that relating to the Arms and devices of John Thoresby, Abp. and Cardinal, was very instructive. I gave you the trouble of a letter in Oct<sup>r</sup> by Dr. Mangay’s brother, by whom

I writ also to Mr. D., but the Simpleton brought them both back, Mr. D. N. persuading him that it would retard his deputation for Arms painting. I long very much to hear of the publication of some of your learned works. I question not but you have heard of Mr. Warburton's noble Map of Yorkshire. The Arms of the Nobility and Gentry are to be engraved on each side, as in that he has done of Northumberland, which is not to be got for money, he having stuck to his promise that none shall have any Map but Subscribers, so that some Innkeepers of your County who had subscribed sell them for double price. The North and East Ridings of this County are actually surveyed, and a great part of the West, the rest is doing. He was with me 4 days the last week, I am mightily pleased with his performance. My service pray to your Lady, and to your neighbour and his family, though he has taken the pet I think, and resolved never to write more; for I am not apprehensive of the least occasion that could be offered him by

"Your most humble Servant,

"Leedes 13 May 1719."

"RALPH THORESBY."

"For the Honoured

"John Anstis, Esq.,

"Garter, Member of Parliament, at his house in the College of Arms next St. Paul's Church

"In London."

Then follow the remaining letters to Dr. Charlett:—

"Reverend S:

"The date of your last is near a month ago, that I am ashamed to mention it. I am obliged to you for the enclosed catalogue of the learned works lately printed and now printing at Oxford, and am proud that we have 3 Eboracenses amongst them, viz., the Bishop of Oxford, Mr. Wasse and Mr. Rogers, who being of your College you can without much trouble give my service to him.\* I perceive amongst those Preto parati is

\* The Bishop was John Potter, author of *Antiquities of Greece*, and Archbishop of Canterbury from 1737 to 1747.

In the Thoresby Correspondence there is a letter, dated in November 1716, from the Rev. Joseph Wasse, styled by Mr. Hunter in a foot-note,—“The learned

the Catalogue Librorum Impressorium. There are some few mistakes that I observed in that published by Dr. Hynds, which when I get a little more leisure I shall acquaint you with. Most of the last week was taken up with Mr. Warburton at my own house, where he was an acceptable guest from Saturday to Thursday, from thence till Sunday after abroad waing (*sic*) the Roman way, and making visits to some of the Nobility and gentry. The former receipt having miscarried, I got a receipt for the 12s. 6d. from University College, Oxon. My service to the Hon. Gent. who was so kind as to transmit yours to me; but not knowing whether he may be in London, or removed to Oxford, I presume to trouble a learned and ingenious Gent. (at whose house I had the honour to be first known to you) to transmit this to you, from

“Your most humble Servant,

“RALPH THORESBY.”

“My Son who accompanied Mr. Warburton to Halifax call'd with him to see the old man at Hipperholme who is hearty and strong in the 113th year of his age. He appears as tho' but 70, but I have a certificate of his age from the parsons. I know not whether I gave you a hint of my Colyar (*sic*) who has been above 19 years married with his 6th wife. There were lately living at the same time, in the same town of Hunslet (a mile from here) 4 men who had been the husbands of 21 wives.”

John Warburton, so repeatedly mentioned in the foregoing correspondence in connection with his map of Yorkshire, became Fellow of the Royal Society and Society of Antiquaries, and Somerset Herald. His Topographical Yorkshire Collections are among the Lansdowne M.S.S. He was again Thoresby's guest in the Autumn of 1719, when the last part of the Diary commences after an interval of five years. Among the earliest entries is an

Rector of Ayno, in Northamptonshire.” Mr. Wasse, who had visited Thoresby in Leeds, wrote to ask the loan of his manuscript *Lactantius*, and that he would get as many subscriptions as possible for a *History of the Saracens*, by Professor Ockley, Chaplain to the Lord Oxford.

interesting account of a visit to York, in which Thoresby and his younger son were accompanied by Mr. Warburton :—

“19 Oct? Set forwards with Mr. Warburton and my little son Richard for York; when we were out of town he drove the chaise himself, that we might have more enjoyment of each other's company. Upon Bramham Moor we traced the grand Roman military way, and he conducted me to a certain place, where three of their ways part, one goes by St. Helen's ford to the north, another grand road through Tadcaster to York, and a third towards Thorner, confirming my apprehensions of a *Via Vicinalis*, *Ducatus Leod*: p. 140.\* We saw the remains of the grand road in several places in our journey to York; the causeway over the moor beyond Tadcaster is laid upon the Roman Rig; the Street-houses. (or hows rather), are doubtless so denominated from their stratum. Here we baited, and after escaped danger from the unruliness of the horse, that ran the chaise backward up a steep bank. Mr. Warburton himself conducted me to York, whence his servant to the Minster. We lighted at Mr. Bulman's, whither Justice Robinson came to us, and received us most kindly, and conducted me and my son Richard (who performed his journey bravely), to his own house, where we lodged.

“20. After morning prayer we went to the Coffee-house, and then Manor, to visit two ingenious artists, Mr. Place and Cousin Lumley, who presented me with some curiosities (of which see the new Catalogue), dined at my kind friend's Mr. Robinson's, who went with me to his Aunt's, to shew me the remains of her husband's, the late excellent Mr. Terrick's noble library,† where we stayed till the Prayers at the Minster, whither I carried my son Richard, but he liked not the singing service because, he said, he understood not what they said; a reason that might

\* The passage of the *Ducatus* here referred to corresponds with, and is in part identical with, that in his letter to the Royal Society which treats of the same roads, given in Vol. I, page 421.

† Samuel Terrick, A.M., had died on the 2nd of June the same year. His monument in York Minster states that he was Rector of Wheldrake, Canon Residentiary of York, formerly Chaplain to the Rt. Hon. — Stanhope, Ambassador in Spain, and afterward to Archbishop Sharp.

come from an older head. After, had the company of several gentlemen, my Lord Downs's Chaplain and Mr. Wyn, Mr. Jubb and our friends from the Manor, at my kind Gaius's, which kept us up too late.

"21. At the Register's Office; had the assistance of Mr. Robinson in collating the copy I took many years before, with the original Register of Archbishop Thoresby, containing his excellent treatise upon the Lord's Prayer, Decalogue, &c.; this kept us fully employed till dinner: afternoon, we visited the ingenious Lawyer Johnson, I consulted the third volume of *Monasticon Anglicanum* (which I have not in my own library), and after visited Dr. Colton, who told me of a treatise against Transubstantiation, published by Sir John Hewley, and some remarks of his pious Lady, the benefactress. Evening, with Mr. Robinson, Lawyer Johnson and Mr. Warburton at the Coffee House.

"22. Morning, walked with my son to show him the Castle, and to Micklegate Bar, but missed both of Alderman Fairfax, Mr. Selby and Mr. Smith, so that returned *re infectâ*; called at two or three booksellers, but bought nothing; after dinner took leave of Mr. Robinson, and returned with my son, by the Street-Houses, to Tadcaster, where we lodged."

This portion of the Diary also elucidates Thoresby's statement to Dr. Charlett, that he had "succeeded in getting a very worthy gentleman" to provide for the reading of evening prayers at the Parish Church; although, but for this letter, we should not have supposed that it was at Thoresby's instance the endowment had been given. It is mentioned in the very first entry with which the Diary recommences, on Sunday the 27th of September 1719; which entry also testifies to his continued assiduity in the offices of religion:—

"Morning, read Dr. Hammond's Paraphrase before family prayer, and his Annotations, before secret, till church time; Mr. Cookson, the Vicar, preached very well from 1 Cor. ii. 6. Afternoon, Mr. Pollard preached very well from 1 Cor. viii. 6. I had afterwards two rooms full of poor children that repeated

the appointed Psalms memoriter, in hopes of Bibles, the charitable bequest of Lord Wharton, which kept me fully employed till evening prayers (the benefaction of a worthy magistrate and dear friend of this town, though he will not permit me to mention his name); after, read Charnock of Providence, &c."

In the Preface to the *Vicaria Leodiensis* Thoresby enlarges upon the commencement of evening prayers by "the Reverend Mr. Cookson, the present Vicar, whose presence and that of some of the Magistrates encourage those of a lower station, for whom it was principally designed;" and he there repeats his assertion in the letter to Charlett that a considerable increase in the number of Communicants was the visible result. It appears, however, from the following passage, that the commencement of evening prayers had preceded the endowment:—

"And lest the voluntary Contributions, whereby it was at first supported, should fail, when perhaps hereafter Trade might be low and Taxes high, it pleased the great Dispenser of all Good to move the Heart of a most generous Benefactor to appropriate a perpetual Fund of twenty Pounds per annum for the continuance thereof. I wish in vain for liberty to honour these Papers with his Name; but he is so far from Ostentation, that when he first discovered to me his pious Intentions, that I might privately enquire what was necessary for the Maintenance thereof, he enjoin'd so strict a Silence as is not to be dispensed with, tho' there are so few of such a Disposition and Ability, that he cannot possibly remain so much conceal'd as he desires."

Another gift by the same Benefactor is then recorded:—

"The Charity School on the North side of the Town being somewhat inconvenient for the remote Parts of the Town on the South . . . a Wellwisher to and Encourager of that good Design from the Beginning, has generously given to that Use a new brick House that he had lately erected in the Church-yard; and tho' the Modesty of the Magistrate will not

permit me to publish his Name, yet it cannot be conceal'd, because so many know whose House it has been."

The Diary, under date 5 April 1720, reveals the secret. The Donor was none other than the "Alderman Million" of Parson Plaxton, he who had adorned the Moot Hall with Queen Anne's statue:—

"At cousin Milner's, to show him that part of the Preface to the Vicaria Leodiensis that relates to his benefaction; and he permitted to add, yet without his name, 20*l.* per annum for the evening prayers."

To return from this explanatory digression to the Bodleian M.S.S., and the remaining letters written by Thoresby to Dr. Charlett:—

"Reverend Sir

"The want of any thing worthy of your notice has occasioned a long silence, but I hope you will be pleased with what I heard this week, that the excellent Bishop of Man is safe arrived in that happy Island, and that the instant he got out of the ship a storm arose and beat the ship back into England. He was met by a great number of the Gentry who dined with him. I have a Cargo of Manx . . . to receive thence. The New Testament is translating into that tongue by Mr. Walker, his Lordship's chaplain and Vicar-General, a native of the Isle. His receipt for cure of Hydrophobia came too late for a young man who was bit by a lap-dog at Martinmas, yet never found any inconvenience till the other day, but died raging the third day after. This reminds me of a neighbouring clergyman who kept a tame serpent, which being by some accident provoked stung him, which has a very odd effect, he having a periodical return of madness, after which he is perfectly well, at that time twelvemonth. To proceed in melancholy stories. Yesterday a . . . which called to see me upon his return from Lincolnshire; near 15 farms were void at one time at Boston, the people being all dead, and a considerable abatement offered to such as would take and live upon them, and double the number, viz., 30 farms were void at Lincoln,



tho' some of them were probably the same that, as we passed through Thorn in the fenny parts of Yorkshire, the bell was tolling for one that made 70 in that country village since May Day last.\* When I wondered there should be so great a sickness in those low countries in so dry a summer, he told me the Doctor had taken notice that the springs were corrupted, and the waters fetched thence would stink in 4 or 5 hours. There were generally an aguish distemper, but that about Boston was more terrible in my apprehension, being a species of the plague, the persons mostly dying of a swelling in the throat in 24 hours after it first seized them. Not knowing whether Dr. Clarke be at Oxford or in Parliament, I presume to enclose this to the learned and ingenious Mr. Anstis, at whose house I had the honour to be first known to you. The length of this will want a pardon, as much as the former silence of

“S<sup>r</sup>

“Your most obliged humble Serv<sup>t</sup>

“RALPH THORESBY.”

“Leedes 7th Feb. 17 $\frac{1}{2}$  $\frac{3}{4}$ .”

Particulars of the case of hydrophobia, and that one still more remarkable of the clergyman bitten by a serpent, are given in Thoresby's Diary; but the dates in the former case are a fortnight *later* than that of the above letter, which probably should be the 7th of March:—

“21 March 1720. . . . With the Mayor and other gentlemen to make a melancholy visit to Paul Ellis's, whose only son John being slightly bit by a lap-dog, above three months ago, without any inconvenience as they thought, but is now raging in the Hydrophobia. I saw five young men holding him, who was in a most piteous case, vomiting blood; his father was much dejected, and his mother overwhelmed with melancholy almost to distraction.”

\* “Heard a melancholy account of the increase of sickness about Thorne, the country sending by seven in a waggon, to be buried there.”—*Diary*, 2 March 1720-1.

"23. . . . Walked to Hunslet chapel, where Mr. Paley made a most affecting sermon at the funeral of John Ellis, a pious young man, who died of the Hydrophobia, from that of Job, "The Lord gave," &c.

Mr. Paley was the Curate of St. Mary's, Hunslet, then a Chapel-of-ease. The other case is mentioned in the following year:—

"Feb. 1721. . . . Visited Mr Read, Vicar of Kippax; received from himself an account of his surprising distemper, a periodical return at Spring and Fall of the symptoms that attended the bite of a serpent; *inter alia*, his skin is discoloured like a snake's; he showed me also Dr. Mead's prescription for it."

Thoresby had long been personally acquainted with the Bishop of Man, Thomas Wilson, who held that See from the close of 1697 until his death in 1755. In the Diary, 25 March 1710, we have,—

"Began to read the Bishop of Man's excellent Treatise of the Principles and Duties of the Christian Religion, received yesterday as a curiosity (being the first book that was ever printed in the Manx language), from the pious author, but find it also an excellent practical treatise in the English part of it."

This presentation from Bishop Wilson is also mentioned in the Ducatus, where his name repeatedly occurs as a contributor to Thoresby's collection. One of his gifts ought to have been particularly interesting in the clothing-town of Leeds:—

"*Laughton-Wool* from the *Isle of Man*, remarkable because not to be met with at any certain Place; but that one only Sheep of a whole Flock hath this dark coloured Wool."

To Bishop Wilson, Thoresby was also indebted for valuable autographs; and for other curiosities, including one of several brass swords found in the Island. Another gift is thus described:—

"The *Manx* Warrant or Token is not to be understood of one under Hand and Seal upon Paper, but of a *blew Slate*, about the Bigness of a Crown-Piece, with the *Deemster's* Mark upon it, which being delivered to the Defendant, he is bound to appear (*Vide* Camd. Brit. N.E. p. 1066.) This hath upon one Side T.S.M. (*Tho. Sodor & Man*), and upon the other the *Governor's* Mark, for the Person charged thereby, being a Soldier, was not to be forced from his Post by any Power but the Governor's. The Right Reverend Bishop of Man, from whom I received this Curiosity, writes they are now as much in Use as ever, and the People Pay a readier Obedience to them, than to an Order under Hand and Seal."

After describing in his Catalogue a Manx coin, or medal, bearing the date 1709, Thoresby adds,—

"This Fortunate Island will be compleatly illustrated, when the Excellent Bishop thereof, the Right Reverend Dr. *Tho. Wilson*, shall oblige the Publick with his History thereof."

In the month of April following this letter to Charlton, Thoresby records a visit from Bishop Wilson's son,—

"23 April 1720. Had the company of two pious and ingenious young gentlemen, Mr. Wilson, the Bishop's son, and Mr. Boulter Tomlinson, till High noon, in library."

The following three letters complete the series in the Bodleian Library :—

"Reverend Sir

"I had ere this acknowledged the favour of yours of the 17th March, but that I waited for the opportunity of sending by Mr. Rogers, an ingenious Fellow of your College, who has obliged us with several excellent Sermons. Could I have hope of your continuance in the Mastership without higher promotion, and that my younger Son (who desires to be brought up a Scholar) should make as good a preacher as others of your house, I should be under a great temptation to send him to University College, if you could secure him a good scholarship to help the narrowness of my circumstances. I thank you for

the enclosed list of Bachelors, if they had been so curious at Cambridge I should have had the satisfaction to have seen my elder son's name 2 years ago. I wish you would proceed to publish the Life of your northern . . . I would spare no pains in drudging at any thing I could possibly serve you in these Northern parts. The last letter I had from Mr. Warburton, he says he is in great forwardness. To my knowledge, the last quarter of the Map in 4 skins of Parchment very curiously protracted, was sent some time ago from Leeds for his finishing stroke. I hope it will give great content, but he is so taken up with his new honours (Somerset Herald, F.R.S. and Member of the Society of Antiquaries), that he forgets his old friends. Our prints tell us that my old friend Mr. Strype, an eminent Antiquary, died the last month.\* I received several valuable autographs from him, and some others from Parson Stanton with promise of more; but I fear I shall hear shortly of his death, or there coming a special message from my Lord Gower to fetch his Son from Barwick. You was so kind as to promise me some of the celebrated Dr. Bathurst's, which I wish had been in your mind when Mr. Rogers left Oxford. But you will find some opportunity or other to gratify the curiosity of

"Sr

"Your most obliged humble Serv<sup>t</sup>

"RALPH THORESBY."

"Leedes, 2 April 1720."

"Since the above writ, the Post has brought me a letter from Mr. Warburton, who says he has employed so many of the top workmen in London, that the map will be ready to be delivered the middle of next month, and he is now preparing more work, while the last part of this map is engraving, for another county.

"My humble service to Dr. Clarke, I know not whether he be now in Parliament, or at Oxford."

\* "Was concerned for the death of my good old friend Mr. Strype, a solid Divine, and useful Historian; witness the Lives of the first four Protestant Archbishops of Canterbury, and others."—*Diary*, 29 March 1720.

"Reverend S<sup>r</sup>

"If anything in these parts had occurred worthy your notice, I should not have been thus long in your debt for 2 kind letters, and Dean Bathurst's autograph, which our good friend transmitted to me. As to my young son, I think to keep him a year or more at this school; he is of very good parts as his master assures me, a lovely youth, but young enough, and my purse too shallow at present. The lady you mention is laying out much money in building, nothing I presume will be had thence, as to a scholarship or exhibition; tho' I must own I have not downright mentioned it, being a better suppliant for others than myself. My elder son, I bless God, is in a very hopeful way of preferment. I had a most comfortable letter from the Bishop of Lincoln upon his examination for Holy Orders, who was so pleased with him that he sent for him to preach before him the very month after, and gave him the curacy at Bugden, where he officiates with great approbation. I hope your expectations will be answered in the Map of Yorkshire you enquire after. I had a great part of it in my Library (being sent by post), to be examined here in the County by his Surveyors, &c. There was indeed nothing of the Arms, but the Map itself will be very curious, and the rest I hope when finished. My service to Dr. Clark (I fear trespassing too much upon our common friend at London), and to such gentlemen of your own College as are pleased to enquire of,

"S<sup>r</sup>,

"Your most humble Servant,

"RALPH THORESBY."

"Leedes, 5 Dec. 1720."

"Reverend S<sup>r</sup>

"I am indebted to you for a kind letter of an older date than I am willing to mention, though from what you mention of the Yorkshire Map being finished, it should not be so. I have indeed got one to Leeds for my own use, as I hope you have got one to Oxford for yours; but very few of the Subscribers in these parts are yet provided for, the painting and pasting being tedious and chargeable, as he writes, for I have not yet

seen him. One of the first things I looked for was the Arms of your famous College, and was glad it was not omitted, as some Gentlemen in these parts that subscribed for and paid for them. I shall be glad to hear that it gives as universal content in your parts as it doth here, tho' there is nothing of that nature without its enemies. I had taken the pains at the request of Justice Robinson and Mr. Warburton himself, to make a calculation of the number of religious Houses in this County and the rest of the Kingdom, and found that Yorkshire alone made a tenth part of all England, and more by 9 or 10 than all Wales, the Isle of Man, and 8 of the English Counties all summed up together, which argues the fertility of the soil as well as the largeness of the County; for the Monks were not fond of barren grounds, and think he might have waved a corner of the raging sea to have inserted some other observations of his own, and what Mr. Gale, &c., might have furnished him with. But the want of a convenient place gave quietus to,

"Sr

"Your most humble Servt

"RALPH THORESBY."

Leedes, 20 May 1721."

"The ingenious young gentlemen of this Town and Parish that I recommended to him for surveying and drawing, have quit themselves with much honour, that he is contracting with them to go shares with him in the profits so well as fatigues of the rest of the Kingdom."

Thoresby's correspondent lived a year and a half only after the date of this last letter. Arthur Charlett, D.D., appointed Master of University College, Oxford, in 1692, died on the 18th of November 1722.

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## From A.D. 1719 to 1723.

WARBURTON'S ASSISTANT SURVEYORS—BUCK'S VIEW OF LEEDS—ELDER SON'S ORDINATION—DAUGHTER'S MARRIAGE—CHRISTENINGS—REV. RALPH THORESBY IN LEEDS—SON RICHARD—OTHER RELATIVES—PARLIAMENTARY ELECTION—PLAGUE—LOCAL INCIDENTS—JOHN LUCAS—LADY ELIZABETH HASTINGS—TRINITY CHURCH—CONFORMITY OF MRS. THORESBY—SERVICES AT THE PARISH CHURCH—READING AND LITERATURE—CORRESPONDENCE WITH SMITH OF MELSONBY.

THE commencing passage of the last portion of Thoresby's Diary has been already quoted. From the subsequent notices of the Sundays and their services, it appears that he had now in part changed from St. John's to the Parish Church, where he claimed the Vicar for a cousin, a Cookson having married into his mother's family, the Idles. But although the contest for the Vicarage on Mr. Killingbeck's death had been spirited, between Cookson and Dr. Brooke, they were now on sufficiently good terms for an occasional exchange, the Vicar officiating at St. John's, and Dr. Brooke at the Parish Church. Consequently it is not always certain which Church is referred to, where the preacher and the text are alone mentioned. One instance which Thoresby records is rather curious:—

“3 January 1720. Die Dom. Afternoon, Dr. Brooke preached an excellent Charity Sermon, from Galatians vi. 10. But the anthem was inconsiderately ordered, being so short that scarce half the Congregation was collected of; yet this collection, and that of the New Church, where the Vicar preached, amounted to 33*l.* 11*s.* 6*d.*”

Thoresby applies to both, in the course of his Diary, the phrase "preached excellently," and of Dr. Brooke he speaks thus highly in his Preface to the *Vicaria Leodiensis* :—

"We are also very happy in having the late ingenious Mr. Lodge's Cure at St. John's so admirably supplied by the no less learned than ingenious Dr. Samuel Brooke."

On the 18th of October 1719, Thoresby laments the mis-spending of a Sunday, when he not only went to Church, as now his custom, three times, but took others with him :—

"Much concerned for the foreseen unavoidable mis-spence with my guests of this holy day, yet got them to church, both forenoon, when Mr. Brearey preached, and afternoon, when Mr. Day, and also to evening prayers. Had their ingenious conversation (which would have been more acceptable another day), till bed-time; then read Dr. Hammond."\*

Although the names of the two visitors are not here inserted, it is pretty evident from the entries which precede and follow that they were Mr. Warburton and Mr. Samuel Buck, who, with his brother Nathaniel, published *Views of Leeds and other Towns*. It appears also from various passages in the Diary at this time, that the two Leeds gentlemen whom Mr. Warburton engaged on Thoresby's recommendation, to assist in surveying and drawing, were Mr. Payler Smith and Mr. Bland :—

"1 Oct. 1719. Transcribing Mr. Bland's Survey till eleven; at Church."

"7. . . . Then transcribing the Survey till near evening, &c."

"10. Afternoon, on the Survey till past five; at Payler Smith's, the surveyor, till evening prayers."

\* At this time Hammond's Paraphrase and Annotations upon the New Testament was in use by Thoresby for his course of Bible reading.



"14. Morning, read and wrote; then at the new church, as high as the bells, but durst not venture up the ladder to take bearings with Mr. P. Smith. Rest of day copying Survey till dark."

"31 March 1720. . . . After at Cousin Cookson's, with Mr. Payler Smith, showing his Survey of the Lordship of Tyresall."

"4 June. Morning, read Henry; transcribed an ingenious letter of Mr. Bland's, concerning the number of acres in the several Ridings of this County. The gross number in Yorkshire is 2,990,712."

"23. Forenoon as usually, read and wrote till eleven; at church; after, at Alderman Milner's, to recommend our two surveyors, Mr. Bland and Mr. Smith, to whom he gave orders to survey about 400*l.* per annum, that lies betwixt Humber and the sea, that he is about purchasing."

On various occasions, Warburton himself, Mr. Bland and Mr. Smith, along with Thoresby, accompanied Mr. Buck to Cavalier Hill, whence he took his views of the town. The various notices of this work are interesting:—

"16 Oct. 1719. Read Dr. Hammond; then with Mr. Warburton and Mr. Buck to take a new prospect of the Town from Priest-cliff, near Cavalier Hill; had the two schoolmasters, Mr. Barnard and Mr. Sumpster to dine with them at my house. Afternoon, at the new garden-house upon the hill, but could make little proficiency in the prospect because of the rain."

"17. Read Hammond; then at the hill-top, taking the rest of the town, and drawing a view of the new Vicarage till noon; dined with them at P.S.'s; after had their company in my Library; Mr Buck took a prospect of it.\* Spent the evening with them."

\* On the 20th of February in the following year Thoresby wrote,—“At parson Barnard's with the female artist that drew the picture of this Museum.” Do these drawings of the Library and Museum still exist? and if so, where?

In his Preface to the *Vicaria* he mentions the new “Erection not only of a convenient, but stately Manse for the Vicar, tho' this, notwithstanding the liberal contribution of some of the Parochians, falls too heavy upon the present Incumbent.”

It was the following year before the drawing of Leeds was completed:—

“16 April 1720. Afternoon with Mr. Buck, Bland, Smith, &c.”

“25. Much of the afternoon abroad at the Mayor’s and with Mr. Buck and Mr. Bland, to choose a convenient station upon Cavalier Hill, to take a long prospect of Leeds designed to be printed.”

“5 Sep. Read Henry; then in Library till eleven; at church; so afternoon till three, when with Cousin Cookson and Mr. Buck, to give the finishing stroke to the Prospect of Leeds from Cavalier Hill.”

Thoresby’s aid to this undertaking was not confined to hospitality and companionship, he gave yet more substantial assistance by obtaining subscribers:—

“13 May 1720. Afternoon, abroad at Cousin Milner’s, Cousin Wilson’s and Dr. Brooke’s, about Mr. Buck’s ‘Prospect of Leeds.’”

“20. Forenoon as usually. Afternoon, at Holbeck and Mr. H.’s procuring subscriptions for Mr. Buck; till seven at Church.”

On a folio sheet bound up in the same volume of the Lansdowne M.S.S. which contains the two humorous letters from Parson Plaxton to a York watchmaker, are the “Proposals” which Mr. Buck issued:—

“PROPOSALS  
FOR  
Publishing by SUBSCRIPTION  
an

Accurate and Correct Perspective Draught of the City of  
YORK, Towns of *Leedes* and *Wakefield*.

Drawn by Samuel Buck.

“These Draughts will be a South Prospect of YORK taken from the Old *Bail-Hill*; and East Prospect of *Leedes* from *Cavalier Hill*; and a South Prospect of *Wakefield* from *Law-*

*Hill*, all Delineated in due Proportion by the Rules of Perspective; and afterwards, being each carefully revised and corrected at the above-said Places, the Undertaker proposeth to have them all Curiously cut on Copper Plates, and himself to see the same Truly performed, by the Hands of the best Artists in LONDON.

“The Sizes of the Plates will be, that for YORK, four Foot in Length and two in Depth; and those of *Leedes*, and *Wakefield*, three Foot in Length and eighteen Inches in Depth, with proper Explanations and References by Figures to the Churches, Eminent Buildings, and other Things remarkable in each particular View.

“The price to Subscribers will be, for that of YORK, three Shillings a Piece; and for those of *Leedes* and *Wakefield* two Shillings and sixpence, all in Sheets; or for their better Conveniency of having them neatly done, Sixpence more for each Draught if pasted on Cloth: Towards the Charge of Engraving the Plate, two Shillings to be paid in Hand for that of *York*, and one Shilling and sixpence for either of the other two, and the Remainder on Delivery: The Work will be prosecuted with due Application, and the whole be compleated as soon as possible: No more to be Printed off than are Subscribed for, and they who subscribe for Six of any sort to have a seventh Gratis.

“The Undertaker having Encouragement from the Gentry, and others his Friends and Inhabitants in these Parts, for publishing these Proposals, designs hereafter (if the Work be Favourably accepted) to perform the same in other Eminent Towns of this County.

“Subscription Money will be taken in by the Undertaker at Mr. *Bullman's* at the *Red Calf* in Peter-Gate; by Mr. *Hildyard*, Mr. *Sagg*, Mr. *Maucklin*, and Mr. *Jeeb*, Booksellers in *York*. By Mr. *Swale*, Bookseller, Mr. *Smalpage*, Watchmaker, and Mr. *Payler Smyth*, at their Houses in *Leedes*. By Mr. *Barber* and Mr. *Simmons*, Booksellers, and Mr. *Daniel Smalpage*, Watchmaker, in *Wakefield*. By Mr. *Wm. Buck*, Painter in *Durham*, and by Mr. *Jos. Turner*, Bookseller in *Sheffield*.”

Over-leaf is a list of 166 names, with the heading,—“The names of so many of the Subscribers to the Perspective Draughts of *York, Leedes* and *Wakefield*, as room will admit of.” Ralph Thoresby, Esq., Leedes, Mr. Thomas Micklethwaite, and Mr. Payler Smith subscribed for a copy of each of the three; and there are about forty other Leeds subscribers. For the View of Leeds only there were Jeremy Barstow, Esq., Mr. Thomas Beckwith, Mr. John Booth, Mr. Thomas Bywater, Mr. William Chipping, Mr. John Cook, The Revd. Mr. Cookson, Vicar of *Leedes* (seven copies), William Cookson, Esq. (seven copies), Mr. John Cross, Robert Dennison, Esq., Mr. John Dixon, Mr. John Douglas, Mr. Samuel Douglas, Mr. James Heartly, Mr. Robert Hill, Mr. John Hirst, Edward Evison, Esq., Mr. Samuel Killingbeck, Robert Kitchingman, Esq., Mr. Richard Lindsley, Mr. William Lupton, Mr. Arthur Mangay, Revd. Mr. Maude, William Milner, Esq., Madam Milner, Mr. Henry Mitchell, The Revd. Mr. Robinson, Mr. Thomas Rountree, Mr. Francis Saul, Mr. James Scholefield, Mr. John Smalpage, Mr. John Swale (seven copies), Richard Wilson, Esq., Mr. . . . Wood; and The Revd. Mr. Plaxton.

Arthur Ingram, Esq., Barrowby, took one copy each of York and Leeds, as did Mr. John Gardiner, and Mr. William Medhurst. The Revd. Dr. Brooke took a view of Wakefield only, as also Mr. Thomas Farrer. The Revd. Mr. Jackson of Addle took a view of York only; and views of both York and Leeds were subscribed for by the Honourable John Montague, D.D., Dean of Durham.

In January 1722, Thoresby writes,—“Delivering Mr. Buck’s Prospect of Leeds.” The engagement that no more should be struck off than were subscribed for was doubtless observed at the time; but there were views of Leeds, of the size specified, issued eventually, with the imprint,—“Sam! and Nath! Buck

del. et sculp. Published according to Act of Parliam<sup>t</sup>, April 15th 1745. Garden-Court, No. 1, Middle Temple, London." \*

The brief period to which this chapter is confined was one of considerable importance in Thoresby's family. His eldest son had removed from Queen's College, Cambridge, to Clare Hall, recommended in the first instance by the Bishop of Ely, and, while a student there, Thoresby mentions having written to him, and "sending a box of books." On the 16th of April 1720, he wrote to his friend Gibson, Bishop of Lincoln, about his son's ordination; and on the 29th of July he records, as a special memorandum, the receipt of the letter from Bishop Gibson, adverted to in his own letter to Dr. Charlton of the following December :—

"Memoranda: this post I received a most comfortable letter from the Bishop of Lincoln, concerning my son's preaching before him, and approbation by his Lordship, who conferred upon him the Curacy of Bugden; so that he is placed, according to my heart's desire, under so pious and learned a Bishop's immediate inspection, where he has the use of two good libraries; that of the Bishop's in the palace, and the minister's.† I hope this is in answer to many petitions, that he may be delivered from those exorbitances that many young clergymen fall into, and may be useful in his generation."

"30. Morning, read Henry; then writing a letter of thanks to my good friend the Bishop of Lincoln, and of advice to my dear son Thoresby."

Simultaneously with his elder son's ordination, Thoresby's daughter Grace married at the age of twenty-six. She was the eldest of his three surviving children. The event is, however, summarily disposed of in the Diary :—

\* There are grounds for believing that, having himself taken the Views, Mr. Buck obtained the assistance of two Frenchmen, H. Gravelot and J. B. Chatelaine, one of whom finished off the landscape, and the other inserted the figures.

† At Bugden, or Buckden, in Huntingdonshire, the Bishop of Lincoln had a Palace.

"29 June. . . . Had two of Mr. Wood's brothers-in-law to treat about a marriage with my daughter."

"12 July. Read Henry; after walked to Holbeck, where my daughter Grace Thoresby was married to Mr. John Wood; was most of day with relations and others upon that occasion, save a little in the library with B. T.; necessitated to sit up too late to gratify the inclinations of the young ones."

"14. . . . Son Wood began his London journeys."

"28. . . . Received my son Wood well home from London and Norwich."

"5 Oct. Morning, read and writ till eleven, at Church; and after, till dark, when walked with my dear to the Bank, where son Wood and daughter entered upon house-keeping; prevented thereby of public prayers."

The two entries which immediately follow give account of Christenings:—

"6 Oct. . . . Afternoon, at Church, at baptizing Cousin Cookson's Son, Arthur; Cousin Milner stood up for Sir Arthur Kay, with whom, and other grandees, the Mayor, &c., till past eight; read Henry."

"13. Morning, as usually till eleven, at Church; where were baptized, Abraham, Sarah and Rebekah, the trimelli of Abraham Scholefield, of the Shambles."

On the 2nd of November there was another, where the relationship was closer than "Cousin Cookson's":—

"Read Henry; wrote till eleven; at Church, when my grand-nephew Charles Nicholson was baptized. Dined there with the Vicar and relations, stayed till about five."

A niece of Thoresby's had been married to Jeremiah Nicholson, Cloth Dresser, as before mentioned in a note upon an alleged portrait.

It was not long before Thoresby himself "stood up;" having become a grand-father, he was called upon to become god-father too:—

"9 June 1721. . . . Wrote till three, when at the Bank, and with relations at Church, where stood surety for my grandson Robert . . . This is the first time I ever officiated in this kind, but I looked upon myself under a prior obligation in conscience to do what I then promised for the good of its soul; spent rest of day and evening with relations there."

A week later he wrote:—

"Walked to see my daughter and grandchild at the Bank, whither one could not get yesterday, even on horseback, for the flood occasioned by a thunder shower."

But Thoresby was soon relieved from his responsibility as god-father. At the end of November he wrote,—“Walked to the Bank, to see poor little grand-child, for whom my heart bleeds.” No Robert is to be found in the pedigree of the family given by Dr. Whitaker, but he was replaced by a Ralph.

Just before the birth and christening of his grandchild, Thoresby was visited by his newly-ordained son, and had the gratification of hearing him officiate in the Parish Church of his native town:—

"20 April 1721. Had a restless night for my dear son, because of the storm of wind and rain: about ten was happily surprised by his safe arrival."

"21. Morning, had son's assistance in family; then to breakfast at Alderman Cookson's; took leave of him, who is for France; then walked to Son Wood's. Had my three sons and daughter at dinner. Afterwards to visit sister Wilson till evening prayers, when my dear son officiated, and I hope his voice will reach the Church."

"23. Die Dom. My dear son preached for the Vicar, from Psalm xxxvii. 37, 'Mark the perfect man,' &c. Showing very well, 1st, what sort of person the perfect and upright man in the text is, not to be understood of a person that has attained the state of sinless perfection, which is not to be expected in this mortal life, but such as is depicted in the sacred Scriptures,

particularly Psalm xv., Job xxxi., Matthew v.; a man who though burdened with the infirmities of this mortal body, and subject to a great variety of imperfections which he daily bewails, yet still aspires to things Divine, and breathes after God . . . We are like persons rowing against the stream, if ever we cease to advance we inevitably lose ground."

After the service, Thoresby "dined with the clergy at the Vicarage." His son's visit only lasted ten days longer, and the day before his departure seems to have been spent in paying visits and receiving visitors; and the relative who was Minister to the Call Lane Chapel Nonconformists was not overlooked.

"2 May. Visited Cousin Whitaker; and after dinner at son Wood's. Evening had visitants, relations and others, who stayed till past midnight."

"3. Morning, took leave of my dear son for Bugden, with a sad heart, it being a very rainy day, which raised the waters, to which my whole stock, two sons and son-in-law, were exposed; read a little till eleven.\* Afternoon wrote a little; then at Cousin C.'s till evening prayers. After walked to the Bank, two sons returned safe, and left son Thoresby well, at Wentbridge. Laus Deo!"

Before the close of the year, there is another mention of the Rev<sup>d</sup>. Ralph Thoresby, indicative of his father's straitened means:—

"At Cousin Wilson's about the poor's concerns. After, disposing of some plate to buy my son a gown and cassock."

The younger son, Richard, in whose favour Thoresby assayed to interest the Master of University College, Oxford, remained in Leeds to the end of 1721; but it appears after the elder's return to Bugden, arrangements were made for Richard's admission to Cambridge:—

"22 Nov<sup>r</sup>. Revived with my dear son's letter about his brother's admission to the University."

\* The time for Morning Prayers at the Parish Church.



Notwithstanding Thoresby's eulogium of him in one of the letters to Dr. Charlett, he was at least on one occasion a source of disquietude to his father:—

"25 Dec. Was too much discomposed by the absence and indiscretion of Son Richard."

No more is said of him until, near the end of April 1722, Thoresby mentions writing to both sons at Bugden. On the 1st of August he again "wrote to sons, with 20*l.* bill, advising to moderation, that others' intemperate zeal may not drive us to extremes;" and that day three weeks he had cheering news:—

"Received letters from Cambridge, that rejoiced my heart, for my son Richard's performances, &c."

In this part of the Diary, there is mention of some others with whom Thoresby owned cousinship, on grounds of relationship not easily discoverable. On the 11th of February 1720, he writes,—

"Afterwards to visit cousin Kirkshaw in the gout."

"31 March 1721. Sent for to poor cousin Addison's; she died this morning in her sleep, and two wakers by the side of her, yet knew not of it till some time after."

"10 July. Walked to Headingley at Cousin Betty Cockhill's request, to give her in marriage to her second husband, Mr. Morris Freeman."

Mr. Hunter states in a foot-note that she was a niece, brought up by him with his own children, in which case she was probably the child of his improvident brother Jeremiah;\* and in the following October Thoresby himself writes,—

"Following the corpses of my poor afflicted niece's two children, Joseph and Mary Cockhill, both dead of the small pox, which is this year extremely fatal."

\* Who left two daughters, Elizabeth and Mary.

Then he speaks of visiting a Cousin Aldburgh, and on Sunday the 9th of December 1722 he attended her funeral:—

“Afternoon, at the funeral of my dear Cousin Aldburgh; the Vicar preached from Isa. xxvi, 3,\* showing that the sense of his own unworthiness may discourage a pious soul, but he must stay himself upon the mercy of God, and manifest his sincerity by his constant obedience; then gave a just character of her, but vastly short of her deserts, who, to the advantages of a good family and religious education, added a most exemplary piety. This ingenious, pious and charitable gentlewoman has left 10*l*. to the Charity School.”

Notwithstanding the wide difference in their circumstances, and the remoteness of the marriage connection between the two families which formed the basis of Thoresby's claim of cousinship with Alderman Milner,† we ever find them on terms of close intimacy. Neither the wealth of the Alderman, nor enhanced dignity, impaired it in the least. On the 26th of February 1716-17, his eldest surviving son, who in the previous December had married Elizabeth, daughter of Sir William Dawes, Archbishop of York, was created a Baronet; and in 1720 a son was born to him, who eventually succeeded to the Baronetcy. Thoresby, on the 12th of March in that year was,—

“At Cousin Milner's, to wish him joy of the young baronet, for whom the two grandfathers, my Lord Archbishop and Mr. Milner, were godfathers. Sir Arthur Kay represented the Alderman.”

It was in the following June that Alderman Milner, as already mentioned, engaged the two Leeds surveyors on Thoresby's recommendation; and the Diary for the same year contains also the following:—

\* “Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee; because he trusteth in thee.”

† Vol. I, page 63.

"21 July. Afternoon at Cousin Milner's, to wait of Sir William, found there Sir William Lowther and Dr. Brooke; stayed about two hours."

"18 Aug. To wait of the Archbishop at Mr. Milner's."

"9 Nov. Wrote till six, when with Alderman Milner, Dr. Tomlinson, &c., at a tavern, to drink a token from our kind friend Mr. Boulter; stayed till about ten."

"29 Decr. Invited to Alderman Milner's feast, with the clergy, whose agreeable conversation staid me till ten."

On the 24th of June 1721 he "rode to Wakefield to the funeral of Cousin Ben. Milner (the Alderman's brother)." It appears from this, the former Merchant of Amsterdam, repeatedly mentioned in the first volume, had of late years lived in Yorkshire. Subjoined to an entry under the date 24 January 1722, there is the memorandum:—

"The Leeds men that were freemen in York, returned with green boughs, &c., and the whole town expressed all possible joy by ringing, &c., that Sir W. Milner was elected Member of Parliament, by a majority of some hundreds."

This should have been under March, not January; and as the date which immediately follows is 2 April, it is evident there is here part of the Diary wanting. The first Parliament of George the First was prorogued, at the conclusion of its seventh session, on the 7th of March 1722; dissolved a few days afterward, and a new Parliament called, the writs being returnable on the 10th of May. Sir William Milner headed the poll with 1421 votes, his colleague, Edward Thompson, having 1399, and the unsuccessful candidate, Tancred Robinson, 1076. Green boughs, in remembrance of the Restoration, had been the emblem of the Tories at the election of 1713, the Whigs wearing pieces of wool, to denote their regard for the clothing trade.\*

\* On St. John's Day, 1728, at York, Sir William Milner was elected Grand Master of the Freemasons of England; the 798th, says the Wilson M.S.S., in succession from Edwin the Great.

Another public event, of a different nature from that of a general election, is also adverted to. Throughout the year 1721 there was much apprehension lest a Plague which raged abroad should find its way into England:—

“7 January. After evening prayers, read Dr. Mead’s new Treatise of the Plague; and after, had a bad night with the thoughts of that most dreadful of all distempers, and fear of it in this County, particularly by arrival of a ship at Burlington, which is ordered to be burnt.”

“9. Transcribed the prayer to be used during the continuance of our danger from the Plague.”

For many months this Plague prevailed in France and other parts of the Continent. It was mentioned in the King’s Speech when Parliament met on the 19th of October; and the *Gazette* of the 28th contains a Proclamation, which, after the Premise,—“wheras several Parts beyond the Seas continue to be grievously affected with the Plague,” &c., appointed Friday the 8th of December 1721 a Fast Day,—

“to implore His Protection and Blessing to avert all those Judgements which our manifold sins have deserved, and to continue His mercies, and to perpetuate the Enjoyment of the Protestant Religion among us, and Safety and Prosperity to the Kingdom and Dominions.”

And on the said eighth of December Thoresby recorded,—

“The Vicar preached excellently from Isaiah xxvi. 8,\* and suitably to the occasion, being a Fast Day to avert the Plague. We have distempers that take off multitudes, and unusual lights in the Firmament, which though Philosophy may render a natural reason of, yet may they not prove dismal presages of future calamities?”

It is not very clear whether this interrogation is the Vicar’s or the Diarist’s; but it has a close resemblance to the reflections

\* “Yea in the way of thy judgments, O Lord, have we waited for thee; the desire of our soul is to thy name, and to the remembrance of thee.”

of Thoresby and of Evelyn upon Comets, forty years earlier.\* Another passage of the Diary for this year explains the "unusual lights"; probably *Aurora Borealis*, or something of the kind:—

"6 Feb. Walked to Coit-Beeston, to visit the ingenious Mr. Forster, indisposed; stayed late enough; saw an unusual phenomenon in the air, that we could see to read some words by the light of it, some hours before the moon rose."

Some other incidents are interspersed, curious, although of local and not general interest. An exhibition upon the River Aire caused no small stir in the town:—

"23 Jan. 1720. Afternoon, Mr. Robertson, a Frenchman born of Scotch parents, in the presence of the magistrates and about five thousand spectators, swam upon the River Aire in his leather boat; which is, before he extends it by a pair of bellows, wherewith he fills it all (except a small hollow for himself to sit in) with wind, in so small a compass as to be folded up in a handkerchief, some say put into his pocket. I was heartless, and even my dear's entreaty could not prevail upon me to go and see it; but both the barbers being run thither, I went to Cousin Bowers's upon the bridge, and saw him at a little distance."

And there were entertainments of another kind, to which Thoresby was still less inclined. His opinion of theatrical performances was adverse as ever:—

"3 June 1722. Die Dom. The Vicar proceeded from Peter ii. 1, 4, to the third head, what is required in order to Confirmation. He particularly inveighed against plays, which reproof was the more necessary, because we have had in town a company of players six or eight weeks, which has seduced many, and got abundance of silver."

This was half a century before Tate Wilkinson opened a Theatre in Leeds.

\* Vol. I, page 162.

A mining enterprise which Thoresby mentions in 1720, must, if successful, have materially affected Leeds in its commercial character,—

“Walked to Sheepscar, to see the attempt made for a new lead mine, which, by the specimen they find, seems to be a very rich ore.”

Though not by any means unsociable, Thoresby never displayed inclination for mere amusement. His museum and ‘beloved library,’ as he once calls it, were his secular delights; piety, literature and usefulness the main objects of his daily life. They who are ready with help do not remain undiscovered by those who are in trouble, and he was one, in his day and generation, much resorted to. For instance,—

“26 Nov. 1719. Morning, as usually; but most of forenoon assisting an afflicted family, to keep an old man out of the gaol, that prevented my attendance at Church.”

“27. Morning, read and wrote; then earnestly solicited by his sons and daughters to treat with the Recorder’s brother, to prevent sending old Mr. Stackhouse to the gaol, spent much time, but at length prevailed, and had the thanks of both parties for accommodating the business.”

There was another on whose behalf Thoresby interposed in a similar way, apparently a genius in humble life, with antiquarian propensities. Thoresby calls him “the Saxon Saddler.” His initials were “C. H,” but his full name does not transpire, and Mr. Hunter regrets his inability to recover it. Thoresby maintained a familiar intercourse with him, and writes on one occasion,—“Was much concerned for the sudden and dangerous illness of the Saxon C. H.” One thing is certain, the man was poor and hardly dealt with, and Thoresby befriended him:—

“7 April 1722. Morning, had son and daughter to dinner; then a third time to assist the poor Saxon saddler, upon whom is a demand of 4*l.* 2*s.* for a debt of 5*s.* 6*d.*”

"9. Morning read; then at the bailiff's to make an end of the poor Saxon's troublesome affair; I promised to see them paid 30s., which makes above 4*l.* for a debt of 5s. 6*d.*"

The first mention of him occurs two years before this, in a passage of some interest,—

"14 March 1720. Walked to Armley, the minister (Mr. Hartley) being dead, to make inquiry; had the Saxon Saddler along with me, and stayed at his house, with Mr. Lucas, to refresh myself."

The deceased Minister of Armley was, Mr. Hunter says, the father of Dr. David Hartley, author of a work published in 1749, entitled,—"*Observations on Man, his Frame, Duty and Expectations*"; and the grand-father of David Hartley, Esq., M.P. for Hull.

Mr. Lucas was at this time Master at the Grammar School by Leeds Bridge (where Thoresby himself received his school education). He was afterward Master of the Charity School, and his successor there, Thomas Wilson, whose manuscripts have been so often referred to, gives this account of him: \*—

"John Lucas, born in the Parish of Warton in Lancashire,† educated at Warton Free School, chosen by the Committee of Pious Uses for the Parish of Leeds in Yorkshire to be Master of the Free School of St. Mary Magdalen at the Bridge End in Leedes, removed to be Master of St. John's Charity School June 17, 1726. He was very intimate with our famous Antiquary Ralph Thoresby of Leedes, Gent., and assisted in compiling his books, especially his Catalogue of Coins, &c."

But this, it is probable, was subsequently to the publication of *Ducatus Leodiensis*, in which he is not once named; and he is first spoken of in the Diary on the 26th of February, 1720:—

"With some friends at Mr. Lucas's; the Indian book containing a Malabar history, writ, or rather inscribed, upon

\* Historical Register, Wilson M.S.S., and referred to in Vol. I, page 11.

† In the Township of Carnforth.

Palmetto leaves in the English tongue, kept us pleasantly employed late enough."

This is not in the printed catalogue of his museum, although we have there the following:—

"A Plate of the *Palmetto*-Leaf writ upon, or more properly engraved or impressed with a Stile; it is above half-a-yard long, and but an Inch broad: others, not writ upon, are an Inch and half deep, and near 12 in length; these by a Hole punched at both Ends appear to have been designed for a Book, and to be filed upon Strings."

"Part of the *Gospel* in the *Malabarick* Language and Character, brought to *London*, Anno 1710, and given me by *Henry Newman* Esq.; secretary of the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge, to which all good Men wish Success answerable to so excellent a Design. It is written, or rather impressed with a Stile upon a single Plate of the *Palmetto*-Leaf, one Inch broad, and ten in Length."

In 1720, Thoresby joined with Lucas in an exploration at Kirkstall:—

"2 April. Afternoon, walked to Kirkstall Abbey, and by the help of my friend Mr. Lucas got up some of the tiles lately discovered, wherewith the Abbey, at least that part nigh the high Altar, was paved; there were some rows of blue and yellow ones set chequer-wise under the last wall, as afterwards others, more in view, with fleurs-de-lis painted on them. Of these latter we found none, but brought of the others home with me. In time for the evening prayers."

"14. Afternoon, walked with Mr. Hey, Mr. L. and H. to Kirkstall-forge, where the inscription is now placed that was in the portal of the Abbey, mentioned in the *Ducatus Leod.*, p. 580.\* Mr. Moore was so kind as to return with us to

\* In the Appendix, where it is said,—“Upon the Cieling of a Room in the Gate-house at Kirkstall-Abbey is this Inscription.

*Mille & Quingentos postquam compleverit orbis*

*Tresq; & ter denos per sua signa Deus*

*Prima salutiferi post in cunabula Christi*

*Cui datur omnium Honor, Gloria Laus & Amor.”*



the Garden of the Abbey, where he had the view of some of the larger sort of the tessellated pavement, wherewith the Abbey (at least about the high altar, where these were digged up) was paved; we afterwards uncovered a great part of a large stone about the altar, in hopes to have found an inscription, that we were late and in the dark at home."

Mr. Lucas afterward accompanied Thoresby on a visit to Lady Elizabeth Hastings, at Ledston Hall, with whom, at this part of his life, Thoresby was on terms of intimacy. Towards the close of 1720, she had recourse to his learning as an antiquary:—

"Oct. 19. Morning, read Henry; prepared for a journey, upon invitation of the no less religious than right honourable Lady Elizabeth Hastings; found Breck Lane better than expected; got well there, and in time for prayers; after dinner, with my Lady perusing some ancient Court-rolls and Charters that her Ladyship wanted to understand more fully, which took up the whole time from afternoon prayers till supper, and after till bed-time; had family prayers, with a chapter, and Burkitt's Annotations or Paraphrase."

He again visited at Ledstone in the following February, accompanied by Mr. Roebuck, Clerk-in-Orders of Leeds Parish Church:—

"13 Feb. 1721. Morning, read Henry; then with Mr. Roebuck; designed to walk to Ledstone-hall; we visited in our way Mrs. Ibbetson, at Kippax (the Doctor's mother), and got to my Lady's in good time. I was agreeably entertained by the pious Lady Betty with books; so, after supper, with the Lady Katherine and the Lady Margaret.\* Mr. Roebuck read in Burkitt upon the New Testament before family prayer."

"14. Morning; after the usual chapter and family prayers from the Manual of Devotions we walked to Ledsham, where this pious lady is now erecting a very handsome and convenient vicarage-house, and also a very noble charity-school,

\* The half-sisters of Lady Elizabeth Hastings, her father, Theophilus, seventh Earl of Huntingdon, having married twice.

wherein twenty poor girls are to be wholly maintained with food, raiment and learning; returned through the Park in time for the second of the four times of prayer in this religious family; spent rest of day in converse; and evening, at my lady's request, explaining some difficulties in heraldry and pedigrees, wherein her ladyship showed herself a wonderful proficient."

"15. Morning, walked to Brotherton to visit my sister Rayner and family; called also to visit the learned Mr. Daubuz's widow, who gave me the first rough draught of his admirable treatise upon the Revelation;\* her mother, the pious and learned Dr. Guide's widow, came in to visit me; returned in time to dine with my lady. Evening, there was dancing for health of the body, and prayers for the soul."

"16. Morning, after family prayers took leave of this incomparable lady and her sisters, the Lady Katherine and Lady Margaret; then returned with Mr. Roebuck, my fellow traveller."

Mr. Lucas accompanied Thoresby to Ledstone Hall in May 1722. As before, Thoresby walked the whole distance both in going and returning, but his account betokens failing strength:—

"May 15. Morning, read as usual; then designed to walk to my Lady Betty Hastings; abroad till near eleven; had Mr. Lucas's company in my walk to Ledston Hall, where I was kindly received by my Lady Betty, and all the good family; I retired so sadly fatigued that I could not sleep for two or three hours, for pain in my feet and weariness."

\* The Rev. C. Daubuz, Vicar of Brotherton, died there in 1717. Mr. Hunter, in a note to Thoresby's Diary, Vol. I, page 416, gives a short but interesting biographical account of him; and a letter from him to Thoresby is printed in the Correspondence. His father was a French Protestant, Minister at Nerac; and by his Mother he was brought to England during the troubles of 1686. From "Parson Daubuz," of Brotherton, Thoresby received a present of French autographs, some of them signatures of Statesmen, and one that of Louis XIV himself. Some of his writings were published, including the Commentary on Revelations. Three years after his death, Thoresby mentions calling on Cousin Wilson for Parson Daubuz's widow; and the next day,—"**assisting** the learned man's widow (sent her three guineas for the books)."

"16. Morning, walked about the gardens with my friend Lucas, till family prayers; then my Lady showed me what alterations were made, and what farther designed there, till parson Benson came to perform the public offices of the church before dinner, when we had also his brother parson Barnard, with whom, after the evening service, till about five; then walked with my Lady to the statuary's till supper-time; after which, Mr. Hole as usually read Mr. Birket's exposition before evening prayer; then with my Lady and her sisters till about nine, retired."

"17. Morning, had my friend's company in my walk to Brotherton, where I found brother Rayner and family better than I expected; after dinner visited Mrs. Daubuz, and went to the church to transcribe her learned husband's epitaph; in return, visited the two brother clergymen, at the new and very neat vicarage-house, at Ledsham, built, as also a new charity-school, the last year, by this incomparable Lady Betty Hastings, with whom (after the return of the Lady Frances Bland) I could not avoid taking a pretty long tour amongst the shady trees, in the new terrace walks, where were the statues; that was fatigued, but was revived with the good and pious order of the family, which was ravishing also to my friend Lucas, but I was detained so long by my Lady's condescension and kindness, that I was fatigued."

"18. Morning, returned with Mr. Lucas, my dear friend, who supported me over the stiles, and where any difficulty occurred as upon the Moor, when surprised with a mighty thunder-shower; but we got well home, and without damage from the rain, though most severely wet."\*

"19. Morning, read; wrote a little till eleven; after, called at the Vicar's to deliver my Lady's message to him; afternoon, showing curiosities to Mr. Lucas's brother, come from the remote parts of Lancashire, with whom after at the Saxon's, and then at cousin Wilson's, with my Lady's respects to him; that missed evening prayers."

\* The day of the flood at Ripponden, as mentioned in *Philosophical Transactions*, Vol. I, p. 442.

At the beginning of the following year, 1723, Thoresby once more visited Ledstone, again accompanied by Mr. Lucas; and he gives a further insight into the domestic life at the Hall, with its frequent devotional services:—

“Janx 4. Morning, read; then took a walk, designing to visit the Lady Betty Hastings; had dear Mr. Lucas’s company, and having baited a little at Whitkirk proceeded vigorously; visited good Mrs. Ibbetson, the learned Doctor’s mother, and got well to Ledstone-Hall, where most kindly received by the pious lady.

“5. Read till family prayers; then with the three ladies till the Vicar of Ledsham came to read the church prayers. After dinner, the ladies took the air; upon their return, my lady read some very curious letters till evening, that my Lady Frances read to us the Reformed Devotion (preparatory to the Sacrament) till the parson read the evening service. After supper, had religious conference till, the steward’s table and the subaltern being finished, the servants of the upper and lower house were called up. Mr. Hole, by my Lady’s appointment, read our late friend Mr. Nelson of the Festivals, to instruct them as to the Epiphany; then a chapter as usually before family prayers; after which all retired to their private devotions, blessed be God for such exemplars! Mr. Lucas, to save my eyes, read in Bishop Taylor of Holy Living.”

“6. Die Dom. Morning, read ditto; then walked to the church at Ledsham. Mr. Benson, after a good sermon, administered the sacrament. Walked home through the Park, yet fatigued enough. Got not to Church in the afternoon, but read till my Lady and family’s return. After which, several poor neighbours and tenants were admitted, for whose instruction an excellent book was read, and afterward we sung the 100th Psalm with great affection; some in the other rooms, for we had three at least, sung the bass very well, that it was pleasant as well as pious. My friend Lucas told me afterwards, that he was never so ravished in his life in the ordinance. After supper, the family was again called together, and Birket upon the Epistles read before family prayer. How

pleasant is a Lord's Day thus spent in his service! I had, in private, some very refreshing discourse with my Lady concerning the knowledge the saints shall probably have of one another in Heaven."

"7. Morning, read till time of family prayer; then with my Lady till near noon, that Parson Benson came to read the prayers of the Church. After dinner, when the three ladies were gone to take the air, enjoyed the rest of the good family with the parson, who stayed to read the evening service. After which, very agreeably entertained by my Lady with original letters and books till supper time, and after, till the family was called up, when Mr. Hole read Burkit as usually before prayer."

"8. This day in like manner, only evening not so pleasant, because to take leave."

"9. Rose pretty early; then returned with my dear friend Lucas to Whitkirk, and, after a necessary refreshment, to Leeds, where found family well."

A year later Mr. Lucas paid a compliment to Thoresby which was doubtless gratifying. Wilson appends to his biographical notice this account of Lucas's writings:—

"I. Collections relating to the Civil, Ecclesiastical and Natural History of Lancashire, with Pedigrees of the Gentry. M.S. chiefly extracted from M.S.S. in Musæum Thoresbyanum.

"II. The History and Antiquities of the Parish Church of Warton in Lancashire. M.S. with curious observations concerning the origin of Churches, Ceremonies, &c. This M.S. I read in 1736. It's dedicated to Mr. Ralph Thoresby, F.R.S. Dated on New Year's Day 1723,\* containing two large Volumes folio."

Mr. Lucas left his work in M.S. Dr. Whitaker alludes to it in his Life of Thoresby, saying,—“Which, having perused

\* The year is given Old Style, although the 1st of January is called New Year's Day. On the 2nd of January 1724, Thoresby says,—“diverted with a manuscript writ by my friend Mr. Lucas, concerning his native country;” and on the 7th,—“Even, concluded the perusal of Mr. Lucas's manuscript, in folio, wherein he has shown much reading, and his digressions, though long, are instructive.”

about thirty years ago, I have since in vain endeavoured to retrieve ;” but it is used in Baines’s History of Lancashire, where it is said that Lucas lived in Leeds above forty years. If this be correct he must have come to the town long before Thoresby’s first mention of him in the Diary\* for Wilson concludes,—“He died 26th June 1750, aged 66, and was buried in St. John’s Chapel Yard.” In the History of Lancashire a couplet is given which Mr. Lucas composed for his own monument,—

“Carnford me genuit, docuit Wartona aluitque  
Leedes celebri panis: hic lapis ossa tegit.”

“We talk again of building a new Church at this Town,” wrote Thoresby to Dr. Charlton at the beginning of the year 1719, in one of the letters given in the preceding chapter. It had been talked of for years; and would have been talked of for more but for the generous interposition of Lady Elizabeth Hastings. The building of Trinity Church in Leeds involves a passage of local history, which extends over nearly ten years.

In January 1714, Thoresby, with “three cousins, Milner, Wilson and Cookson,” went to “Rawden” upon a visit to Thomas Layton, uncle of his deceased friend Mr. Kirk of Cookridge, and younger son of the late Francis Layton, founder of Rawdon Chapel.† “Mr. Thomas Layton,” says Thoresby,—

“Received us very respectfully and entertained us generously; after dinner we walked to the chapel built by order of his father, and considerably beautified by this gentleman, who hath also surrounded the churchyard by a handsome wall, and added twenty pounds per annum salary to the Minister; we went thence to the school that he hath built and endowed, over

\* In the Catalogue of Thoresby’s M.S.S. is a volume of Miscellanies containing,—  
“The names of the *Mayors of Doncaster* from 1493 to 1698 (Don. D. *Jo: Lucas*) with some Historical Remarks.”

† Vol. I, page 219.

which is a convenient lodging for the master, and a chamber for the inhabitants to meet in about all public accounts, and lastly we viewed the new alms-houses he is building, which he will also endow: but what pleased us above all, was his gratitude to this town (Leeds) for his education at the Grammar-School, and he most generously proposed that if the town would build a new church, which he heard was much wanting, and he computed would cost 3000*l*. he would give 1000*l*. towards it, that is, 500*l*. immediately upon subscriptions of 1000*l*. by the inhabitants, and 100*l*. afterward upon the advancement of every 200*l*. This rejoiced me mightily, and it was resolved to have a meeting upon it by the chief inhabitants the beginning of next week."

This is followed up in due course by these entries in Thoresby's Diary:—

"13 Febꝝ 1714. At Cousin Milner's, and with him at the Mayor's, to set on foot that of the designed church, which seems to flag."

"16. With the Mayor\* and Vicar, Cousin Milner, Cousin Wilson, and Mr. Cookson, at Parson Robinson's, who upon application generously promised to endow the new designed church with sixty pounds per annum, which rejoiced my heart. I returned to the Vicarage in Alderman Milner's coach, it being the greatest snow, and most winterly day we have had this year, but my heart was warmed, &c."

"23. At Parson Robinson's, &c.; he is so far from receding from what he promised on Tuesday last, that he now promiseth to make it 80*l*. per annum, as the New Church† is."

"25. Morning, wrote to Parson Jackson about the New Church."‡

"8 March. Memorandum; this day, after sermon, the writings for subscriptions towards building a new church were

\* William Rooke, Esq.

† St. John's.

‡ Perhaps Robert Jackson, then Rector of Addle.

read in the Vestry; the Mayor subscribed 100*l*., my Cousin Milner 200*l*. and others of the Aldermen as much as made it up 580*l*.; the rest is deferred till after the assizes."

"17. At Alderman Milner's to enquire what progress is made about the new Church, which, I fear, proceeds slowly."

"25. Die Dom. Morning read usual chapters; Mr. Lodge preached most ingeniously from Psalm v. 7. . . . This cannot be better applied than by munificent contributions to the church, that the noble generosity of two signal benefactors gives us hopes will be shortly erected in this most populous town, where it is so much wanted, to which God grant good success. Afternoon Mr. Cookson preached very well. . . . I afterwards called with the Mayor, Cousin Milner, Cousin Wilson and Cousin Atkinson, at the Vicar's, to consult farther about the designed new church, for which 800*l*. (within ten) is subscribed; times and persons resolved upon for collecting more subscriptions."

On the 13th of May 1714, Thoresby, then in London, spoke to Sir Arthur Kay, one of the County Members, who, he says, "told me that the Marquis of Carmarthen, son to the Duke of Leeds, had promised 100*l*. towards erecting our new church." In the following year the *Ducatus* was published, and in it Thoresby wrote:—

"It was before intimated that a Gallery was erected along the South-side of the Parish-Church at *Leedes* this present year 1714.\* But all the vacant places being supplied, and yet many Families in this very populous Town not being provided for, a worthy Gentleman, and noble Benefactor, *Tho. Layton* of *Rawdon*, Esq., was so kind (having received Part of his Education at the School here) as to promise a Thousand Pounds towards the erection of a *New Church*, upon the subscribing of Two thousand by the Inhabitants, which will doubtless be performed in a short Time; there being in a

\* This is one among other instances in the *Ducatus*, in which what is said has to be taken in reference to the time of writing, and not to the date of the publication.



very few Days (before I came to *London* to finish this Work) Fifteen hundred Pounds subscribed with great alacrity, of which the worshipful *Wil. Rooke*, Esq., the present Mayor, was One hundred, and the Aldermen proportionably, with the principal Inhabitants, of whom it may be affirmed without Flattery, that the generality are Zealous for every good Work, and some even above their Abilities. The great Difficulty was to procure an Endowment that it might be no Prejudice to the Lecturers at the other Churches, whereupon Application was made to the Reverend and Charitable Mr. Henry Robinson, who . . . . in many other Instances (too many, and too secret to be particularly enumerated) imitateth his renowned Uncle *John Harrison*, Esq.; the noble Founder of St. John's Church in this Town."

Thoresby also inserted, from "gratitude to the first-named Benefactor, Tho. Layton, Esq.," the Arms and Pedigree of the Layton family; yet after all, the said Thomas Layton, why remains to be explained, ran off his engagement. Mr. Hunter says in a note, that in his copy of the *Ducatus* there is written in an old hand,—“The 1000*l.* not given at last, but turned off with a jest when demanded, after the 2000*l.* by subscription was raised;” and in the *Vicaria* it is said by Thoresby that Thomas Layton “declining to perform his promise, that pious design dropt.”

For half-a-dozen years it remained in abeyance. Dr. Brooke of St. John's urged its resuscitation in his anniversary sermon on St. John's Day, 27 December 1820, dwelling particularly on the necessity of responding to Mr. Robinson's promise of endowment, while he still lived. Before the day came round again the design had been renewed, to end successfully. On the 3rd of November 1721, Thoresby says,—

“Evening at the Vicar's, to read the Lady Betty Hastings's letter about her designed benefaction of a thousand pounds, for the building of a new church in this town, which I hope will now proceed.”

A few days afterward he wrote to her Ladyship a letter of thanks. On the last day of the month he was "at Cousin Wilson's and Parson Robinson's, about the new designed Church," and on Christmas Day Mr. Robinson "subscribed the writings for the endowment of it with lands, the annual rents whereof" amounted then to 84*l*. The Vicar himself preached at St. John's on the Anniversary immediately following, "and in the conclusion pressed earnestly the erection of a new Church, justly celebrating the generosity of Lady Betty Hastings; and Mr. Robinson." The first nomination to the new church was reserved by Mr. Robinson, who appears at once to have decided upon a nephew, the Rev. Jas. Scott; for in the middle of January 1722, Thoresby exhibited his Museum "to Parson Robinson and his nephew Scott, the designed minister of the church to be erected."

"10 May 1722. After evening prayers, rambled to Cousin Wilson's to inquire about the new church, which the Committee this afternoon resolved should be within Bore-lane-end, and agreed with Widow Sleigh for 175*l*. for the Kid-stack-garth to erect it in, and to be at the charge of an Act of Parliament, to confirm the Title."

"23 Aug. Afternoon, with the Vicar to see the foundation of the new church in Boor-lane."

"27. Morning, read; then with workmen till near four, when, after an anthem sung by the charity children at the parish-church, the Mayor\* and Aldermen, with the Clergy and gentry went in procession to the Burrow-lane,† where Parson Robinson laid the first stone of the new church, (and three guineas under it for the workmen); there was great rejoicing,

\* Robert Denison.

† Here are three different forms of the name of this street, now commonly written Boar Lane. Thoresby in the *Ducatus* contends in favour of Burrow, from the Saxon Burg; but it is evident that it was colloquially known as Bore Lane in his day, spell the name as we choose.

and if the loud huzza seemed carnal to some, there was, I question not, much spiritual rejoicing to others; I stayed till past nine."

There is a discrepancy between these extracts from the Diary and the account given in Thoresby's *Vicaria*, where it is said that Mr. Robinson laid the stone, *Aug.* 23 1721. But we learn from this account that Alderman Milner adhered to his promise of 200*l.*; to which is added that several others of the chief Inhabitants subscribed very liberally considering their circumstances:—

"But this Paper not conveniently containing the Names of the rest, I shall only mention those of Fifty Pounds, viz., *Richard Wilson, Esq.*; *Mr. Barstow*, *Mr. Cookson*, *Mr. Rooke*, and *Mr. Iveson*, Aldermen; *Mr. Robert Kitchingman*, and *Mr. Francis Milner*. To these may be added some of the neighbouring Gentry, as the Right Honourable the Lord *Downe*, Sir *Arthur Kaye*, *Gervase Nevile, Esq.*; each 50*l.* *George Lawson, Esq.*; fifty Guineas; and *Madam Savile of Medley* (who has a considerable estate in the Parish) Three Hundred Pounds. Others of the Aldermen and Inhabitants subscribed 30, 20, or 10*l.* and those of inferior Rank 5*l.* and under."

Thoresby himself, who from the first had shown so warm an interest in the undertaking and so active a concern for it, was among the subscribers of ten pounds, no ungenerous contribution when we consider his much limited purse and the demands upon it.

Notwithstanding his own constant attendance upon the services of the Church of England, and his zealous interest in everything which might extend her influence and usefulness, until now his wife continued her attendance at Mill Hill Chapel. There is a significant indication of her adherence to Nonconformity in Thoresby's observation, that her meekness and submission had rarely been tried, except in the baptizing and education of their children after his change of sentiments

as to conformity.\* Still, it seems more surprising that she should have held out for twenty years, than that, at length, with her elder son in Orders and the younger preparing for them at the University, she left Mill Hill, and joined in her pious husband's communion with the Church of England. Thoresby briefly inserts in his Diary record for Sunday, the 7th of October 1722,—“My dear now first received at the Church;” but upon his wife's conformity he resolved to sell the share in Mill Hill Chapel which his father bequeathed to him, and the consequences were very well calculated to extinguish any lingering affection which Mrs. Thoresby might yet entertain for her old associations.

Thoresby appears to have maintained so far a friendly acquaintance with Mr. Pendlebury, the then Minister at Mill Hill, for at the end of January 1721 he writes thus,—

“Concluded the perusal and brief extracts from Nieuentyt's Religious Philosopher, translated by my learned and ingenious friend, John Chamberlayne, Esq., in three volumes, wherewith I have been often much affected; was after at Mr. Pendlebury's to return him the said books.”

But in 1722 we have the following:—

“10 April.† Walked to Mr. Pendlebury's about disposing of my part of the chapel, which he highly resented, called it persecution, and reflected unworthily upon the founders, which I could not bear, that they should be at so great a charge for an ungrateful generation, many of whom are vastly rich, yet affirm (as Mr. Ibbetson did to Mr. Hall, who has bought Mrs. H.'s part) that he will rather spend 500*l.* in law than give 10*l.* or 20*l.* to purchase a part. Mr. P.'s passion moved my mind, but I restrained myself, and the worst I said was that his expressions were very indiscreet and ungrateful.”

\* Vol. I, page 316.

† This was the day after Thoresby's charitable interposition between the “poor Saxon” and the bailiff.

"13 June. Sent for by Cousin Lister, who bought my twelfth part of the chapel for 12*l*."

"22. Afternoon, about the affairs of the Meeting-house, wherein abominably used."

"23. In library till eleven; after sadly fatigued in various walks, about ditto concerns; at length Cousin Stubbs, half distracted, owned to Alderman Cookson and me, that she had sold to them at Mill-Hill what I had bought and paid for, and have it under hand and seal thirty years ago."

"28. Informed from the Lawyer, of joint contrivance of the party, minister and people, to cheat me out of the money for the meeting-house; then my dear walked with me to Woodhouse, where I consulted Alderman Milner."

While all this could not but tend to alienate Thoresby more than ever from Nonconformity; on the other hand he received a distinction as well qualified to confirm his attachment to the Church of England. Upon his return from visiting Lady Elizabeth Hastings in January 1723, he tells us,—

"The Vicar also welcomed me with the acceptable news of my being unanimously elected (together with the present Mayor and Recorder) one of the trustees for the advowson of the Vicarage of Leeds, who are also to elect the Ministers of the new church, after the first nomination by Mr. Robinson, who gives the endowment of above 80*l*. per annum."

The Mill-Hill dispute hung on until the 3rd of the following September, when Thoresby thus relates its termination:—

"Paid 10*l*. to Alderman Milner, and 26*l*. to Mr. Lister, to get quit of a perpetual dun; I think I may say for conscience sake, for if my dear wife had continued to go to the meetings, all had been *statu quo*; but I am better pleased, though I am plainly cheated by the pretendedly pious, of my part in the chapel. Lord, pardon the guilty, and give me a resigned spirit in all respects."

Concurrently with her gift of 1000*l*. towards the New Church, Lady Elizabeth Hastings offered to add to the endow-

ment of the Parish Church a Farm of 23*l.* a year rental, "and capable of improvement," provided the Town of Leeds would do the like; a proposal responded to by the Magistrates. And some outlay was made upon the Old Church itself. Not long after the laying of the foundation stone,—

"The Vicar preached from Acts x, 1, insisted much upon the honour and happiness of building a new church, and beautifying the old. (Memorandum. Now the Communion Table and space were enlarged to the pillars, that it is said will cost 80*l.*, though the former was esteemed decent)."

Some of the entries in Thoresby's Diary incidentally make known to us the character of the services in the Parish Church at this time. Having walked with his wife one Sunday to Batley Church, he says,—“Mr. Rhodes preached well (though in his surplice), but used more ceremony than at Leeds.”

The organ at the Parish Church had its beginning while Thoresby was in London, prior to the publication of the *Ducatus*. It appears to have been customary for the organist to play a voluntary during the Sunday afternoon and evening services, and for Thoresby meanwhile to redeem the time by perusing some work upon subjects of religion:—

“Concluded (during the organ-time) Clark's Abridgment of the Historical Parts of the Old and New Testaments; a good epitome.”

“While the organs played, read a short but excellent tract against gaming.”

“At evening prayers, during the organ time, finished the perusal of Mr. C. Mather's sermon of the Power and Malice of Devils, and discourse of Witchcraft, wherein the father of lies uttered an awful truth, through the mouth of a possessed Man. ‘If God would give me leave, I would find enough in the best of you to make you all mine.’ (p. 109): in the examples are some good cautions against using charms, and several well-attested relations of witchcraft and possession in

New England; though a passage in p. 24 had, I think, better have been omitted, and was in itself an unwarrantable experiment."

"During the playing of the organ, I finished the perusal of a rare piece, the Lamentation of a Sinner, writ by Queen Katherine Parr, the last wife of King Henry VIII, not only an orthodox but excellent book for that age, recommended by Cecil, Lord Burleigh."

One Saturday, at the evening prayers, a woman officiated for the Clerk:—

"Surprised with a voice (in the Clerk's absence) at the low end of the Church, which I took for a distracted person that sometimes gets in and makes a disturbance, but after perceived it was a woman (one Alice Milner) that led out a Psalm, which was followed by most of the congregation."

But the most curious of these entries is one upon Sunday, the 5th of February 1721, in which he gives account of a morning sermon at the Parish Church by the clergyman of Hunslet:—

"Mr. Paley preached from I Cor. x, 31. If our hearts were as full of divine love as they ought, it would be more manifest in our behaviour to our friends and neighbours, both in acts of kindness and reproof, which is as necessary, but to be performed with wisdom and caution; carry this disposition into our religious performances (of which more hereafter), only he took occasion to reprove, and justly, the ceremony of bowing to one another in time of divine service, which is preferring our respects to man before the service of the great God; this, set on by his usual fervency, will, I hope, restrain that licentious custom."

"25 Nov<sup>r</sup> 1722. Read Charnock till evening prayers, when great disturbance, Mrs. Mangey being buried by torch-light."

Thoresby continued to take much interest in the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge:—

"20 March 1721. Finished second perusal of the letters and proposals for printing the New Testament and Psalter in the Arabic language, for the benefit of the poor Christians in Palestine, &c., which is a most excellent charity, and for which I have procured and paid several subscriptions, &c."

"12 April. Wrote to Mr. Secretary Newman about charity books, and Arabic version of the New Testament; sent him a bill for 24*l.* 11*s.* 9*d.*"

A day or two before, he had "finished a second perusal of the agreeable letters (amongst others one of King George's), relating to the Protestant Mission at Tranquebar."\*

Thoresby's reading at this time included Cæsar's Commentaries, perhaps with a view to that "Historical Part" so often promised; Dr. Harris's History of Kent, "Mr. Boulter's noble present;" "Dr. Plot's Natural History of Oxfordshire," which he sat down and finished on his return, wearied, from a four miles walk; "Maittaire's Annales Typographici;" "the English Civil Wars, in English verse, written by a parishioner, Mr. Ant. Cooper, said to be of the family of Knowstrop;" "Dr. Palm's ingenious Travels, wherein a particular account of medals, manuscripts and curiosities;" "Adam's Life, by a Venetian nobleman, wherein are some pious, other jocose passages, smart upon the female sex; the serpent with the face of a damsel;" "Sir James Ware's Antiquities and History of Ireland, with his Commentary of the Prelates and Writers;" and a tract by Dr. Nathaniel Johnston, "of Abbey Lands, 1687,

\* The Danish mission to Tranquebar, on the Coromandel Coast, undertaken about the close of 1705, under the auspices of Frederick IV of Denmark, subsequently received the warm support of the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge. Ziegenbalg, one of the first two missionaries, was received at a general meeting of the Society near the close of 1715, and was afterward presented to George the First; who two years later addressed, under sign-manual, a letter to him and one of his missionary associates. The letter is printed in Buchanan's Christian Researches in Asia. And see, Anderson's Colonial Church.



wherein he would palliate matters.”\* Thoresby continues,—“With this is bound up a curiosity, Pope Innocent the Eleventh’s decree for suppressing the office of the Immaculate Conception, and several Indulgences.” These Decrees, issued in 1678, were printed at Oxford next year with an English Translation, in the form of a small tract. The first Decree prohibited, and required all who had it in possession to deliver up, a small book entitled,—“*The office of the Immaculate Conception of the most Holy Virgin, our LADY; approved by the Sovereign Pontif, PAUL the Fifth; who hath granted, to who-soever shall devoutly recite the Same, an Hundred daies Indulgence; as may appear by his Bull of July 10, 1615. Printed at Milan, by Francis Vigon.*” The second Decree suppressed a number of Indulgences, of which a long and curious list is given; and in the Oxford tract, “to fill up the vacant Pages,” is added a copy of a Te Deum adapted to the Virgin,—“We praise thee, O Mary,” &c.; and, copied from Usher’s Answer to the Jesuit’s Challenge, a specimen of *Our Ladie’s Psalter*. The tract concludes,—“So that ’tis but high time for the Popes themselves (if they have but any sense of Reason or Religion left) to put a check to these insolent extravagances. And not incourage them by such Indulgences, as themselves (it seems) begin at length to be ashamed of.” Altogether it is a publication well calculated to interest Thoresby, who doubtless perused it with satisfaction as well as amusement. On the 11th of February 1720, he writes,—“Read Mr. Hunter’s manuscript account of his voyage to Canada and Quebec, anno 1711, dedicated to me, and presented this afternoon.” The name John Hunter once occurs in the Musæum Catalogue, as the donor of Terra Japonica and other mineral specimens.

\* “The intent of the tract was to show the sufficiency of the titles to lands, formerly Abbey lands, founded on grants made by Henry VIII and his successors.”—*Note by Hunter.*

Amid this manifold occupation, Thoresby still found time for literary work. He had lent to, and received again safely from "the editors of the *New Monasticon Anglicanum*" certain Old Charters, and on the 20th of April 1722, the London carrier brought for him "Mr. Steven's *New Monasticon*" itself. In the following January he speaks of "collating original charters, and marking them as now printed in the *New Monasticon*." He again helped Gibson, who, though now Bishop of Lincoln, was preparing a new edition of Camden, drawing up for him "a catalogue of books relating to the Antiquities of England," called upon another page a "Catalogue of the County writers;" and in March 1721, he sent to the Bishop "the three Ridings of Yorkshire, with the Maps corrected." For his friend Arthur Collins he examined the History of Baronets, correcting and writing additions to it. "In pursuance of the late Bishop of Gloucester's request," he wrote accounts of some remarkable apparitions; having shortly before received from Mr. Sagar "an account of the apparition himself saw." On the 5th of April 1722, he was "all day, except when at Church, answering Parson Smith's long letter (a sheet and a half close writ) *de re nummaria*, about the Consular denarii;" and on the 10th he was visited by his correspondent's nephew,— "Had Mr. Smith's company to view the Roman Consular denarii for his uncle." This correspondence is printed at length in "*Litteræ de Re Nummaria*; In Opposition to the Common Opinion that the Roman Denarii Romani were never larger than Seven in an Ounce;" by the Rev. William Smith, Rector of Melsonby, near Darlington.\* His letter to Thoresby is dated on the 26th of March 1722, and, including postscript, fills nineteen rather closely printed pages. To the postscript there is an addendum:—

\* On the title-page is said,— "By the Author of the *Annals of University College*." The book was printed at Newcastle-upon-Tyne, and published in 1729.

"I have left this Letter open for my nephew to read, and ordered him, if he can with Convenience, deliver it himself; otherwise to Seal it up, under a Cover, and send it to you by a sure Conveyance. Having no perfect Copy of this my self, I have desired him to transcribe it fair over, and mark the Pages as he goes along in his Transcript, that if you make any observations upon it, I may better know to what Passages they relate; And when he has done so, to give you the Choice of the blurred Original, or fairer Copy, which you like best; and bring me the other back when he comes hither, which I hope will be very shortly."

It is to be hoped that the nephew himself took interest enough in the subject to reconcile him to the task assigned. Thoresby's reply corresponds in date with that given in the Diary, the 5th of April. He begins,—

"You have obliged me exceedingly by your learned and very instructive Letter, which consists of eleven close writ pages, and found me in a Hurry, yet I have read it over and over again, in order to have given you more Satisfaction than I fear I shall be able, as to your Queries about the Roman Coins."

He gives Mr. Smith the weights of eighty coins in his Museum, to which he adds,—

"Here is fresh Work for your excellent comprising Talent; I do again repeat my Request, that you would compleat your judicious Observations, get your Nephew to transcribe them, and send them to the Press for the Instruction of the present and Future Ages."

Thoresby does not neglect the opportunity of soliciting an addition to his curiosities,—

"I can hardly conclude without begging some of the ancient Habits at *Rawden*; your uncle gave me a pair of fine old Gloves; But there are several other very Antique Things, fitter for a Repository of Curiosities than any real Use. Have you any Manuscript of the famous Mr. *Chillingworth*, great

Uncle to your Lady (to whom pray my humble Service). I have a memorable Letter of his presented by *Chancellor Wilk-  
ingson*, to

“Sir,

“Your most humble servant,

“RALPH THORESBY.”\*

A second answer on the 18th of April, commences,—

“Yours by the last Post found me more than commonly throng, having to answer Letters to both my Sons, about Business, at the Bishop of *Lincoln’s* and at *Cambridge*; yet rather than let your ingenious Nephew† come without a Letter, I stole so much time as to weigh the Greek coins,” &c.

He gives the weights of more coins, supplies a line omitted by the Printer at page 276 of the *Ducatus*.‡ and says in reference to one passage of Mr. Smith’s letter,—

“As to what you write relating to the Index, ’tis very just, but I had much ado to get it printed, even as it is they would not print a sheet more. . . .” “One volume of the new *Monasticon* is upon the Road towards me; Capt. *Stephens* seems an ingenious Gentleman, but he is a zealous *Romanist*§ . . . his Correspondence with me was under the name of *Smith*, one of the Undertakers. At Mr. Boulter’s

\* The Rector of Melsomby was the son of Wm. Smith of Earby, Gent<sup>y</sup>, and his wife Anne, sister of Thos. Layton of Rawdon, donor of the Gloves mentioned; which were of embroidered leather, lined with crimson silk, and had belonged to Francis Layton, Thomas Layton’s father. His wife, Mary, was the widow of Gerard, only son of Gerard Langhain, D.D. Chillingworth was her great-uncle by the mother’s side, as Mr. Smith had incidentally mentioned in his letter to Thoresby.

† The Nephew, it appears by the correspondence, was a Layton of Rawdon.

‡ “In No. 9 the Printer has missed a whole line, *viz.*, this by AN on each side X, and EY below, I mistook for ANCIATUM (*Albanorum Colonia*) till a learned Gentleman informed me,” &c. In the *Ducatus* the notice of the coin begins,—“A learned Gentleman has informed me,” &c.

§ In one part of his Diary Thoresby says of the work,—“An useful book of its kind, though there are both typographical errors and others, besides some reflections upon the Reformation, which the Spanish Priest, who is said to be the translator and abridger of the three Latin volumes, would not omit.”

Request, I furnished them with abundance of Original Charters, and am told he has been very just in acknowledging the Favour."

Mr. Smith replied by another long letter of the 4th of May, in the course of which he said,—“I have in a Letter to Mr. *Anstis*, which I now send to you, with a Liberty either to send or suppress it, as you think most convenient,” &c.\* This letter is also printed, and then follows one from Thoresby, May 30, with a postscript added on the 13th of June. These are the subject for a reply by Mr. Smith, which concludes the correspondence.

\* Thoresby forwarded the letter “to Mr. *Anstis* by a private Hand, not knowing whether it would be franked to him at this Juncture.” It was the interval between the dissolution of one Parliament and the meeting of another.

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## The Vicaria Leodiensis.

DELAY OF ITS PUBLICATION—THORESBY'S LAST VISIT TO LONDON—CORRESPONDENCE ON HIS RETURN—FAILING HEALTH—LOSS OF FRIENDS—ELDER SON, VICAR OF RICKMANSWORTH—THE VICARIA PUBLISHED—DEATH OF ARCHBISHOP DAWES.

THE origin of this, the last of his publications, is explained by Thoresby himself in the second of the letters in the Bodleian Library. Its contents were to have been included in that Historical part of the *Ducatus Leodiensis* repeatedly foretold in the Topographical. Some misgiving that this historical second volume might never attain to print is manifested in the Addenda of the Topography, where, "for mortality's sake," lists of Leeds Vicars, &c., are inserted, instead of being reserved for the History as originally intended. Had not Thoresby wisely listened to the judicious request of his "cousin" and Vicar, the Rev. Joseph Cookson, and made his account of Leeds Vicarage the subject of a separate and smaller publication, in all probability it would have shared the fate of the rest of that said still wanting Historical Part. And, as it was, it had a narrow escape. The letter to Charlett where we have the first mention of it was written in October 1718, and the publication of the then designed octavo was not accomplished until 1724, the year before that in which its author died. Yet, when he had assented to Mr. Cookson's suggestion, there does not appear to have been delay on Thoresby's part in carrying it out.

Not the least interesting and valuable portion of it, is the exposition of the Lord's Prayer, &c., by Archbishop John Thoresby, mentioned in the first volume of this work;\* and in November 1719, Thoresby speaks of transcribing the Archbishop's manuscript for the press. In the early part of the following year there are several notices of his writing the Preface to the *Vicaria*, which Preface seems to have been a work, not only of considerable pains, but the subject of consultation with Cousin Wilson. On the 27th of April he writes,—“Sending my manuscript *Vicaria Leodiensis* to London, designed for the Press.” There is no further mention of it in the Diary for nearly three years; but in the letter of March 1722, after some criticism of Thoresby's catalogue of coins, the author of *Litteræ de re nummaria* interpolated an inquiry:—

“I hope you will as readily forgive me these Strictures, as I can pardon you the Escapes that occasioned them: Neither should I have mentioned them, but as a means to prevent the like hereafter, and that your Book now in Hand may come out as correct as possible, which I desire to know how far you have proceeded in, and in what Volume you intend to print it, and when we may have hope to see it published.”

To this Thoresby replied:—

“My Manuscript that you are so kind as to enquire after, was once designed to be published with the Title of VICARIA LEODIENSIS: or, a × × × × × × × × × But (if ever) it will possibly be in *Octavo* with that of a Specimen of the *Scriptores Eboracenses*; or, *Memoirs of such learned Authors and Dignitaries as have been Vicars of that Church*; containing also the Lives of Several Archbishops, Bishops, and such eminent Persons as have been Benefactors thereto: To this will be added Archbishop *Thoresby's* famous Manuscript, (recommended in Bishop *Godwin*), from the Original

\* Vol. I, page 3.

in the Register Office at *York*, and a brief Glossary of the Obsolete Words therein: And an Account of the New Church that is to be begun this Year, by the encouragement of the Lady *Betty Hastings*, and the voluntary Subscriptions of several Gentlemen, and Inhabitants, and is already endowed with 120*l.* per Annum, by Parson *Robinson*: But I forget myself, and am tedious; and an aged Gentleman (Rector of High Hoyland) calls me off, and has brought me an acceptable Present of a Transcript of *Domesday Book*, as far as relates to *Ilbert de Lacy's* Estate in Yorkshire, containing four Sheets."

On the 9th of February 1723, Mr. Joseph Bland, probably the son of the Beeston lady learned in Hebrew, wrote to Thoresby from London the following letter:—

"Sir,

"Your favour of the 6th inst. received, and should be heartily glad to see you in town, and therefore hope you will put your thoughts into execution by actions; but as you have not given me positive orders to take a room for you, I shall not do it till you advise me what time you intend to be in town, because if I do, the rent must be paid from that time, whether it be used or not.

"There is plenty of rooms to be let and at different prices, but nothing that is tolerable under 3*s.* per week, or upwards. There is a room now empty in the house Mr. Smith lodges in, in this street, which is a first floor (that is, up one pair of stairs) a handsome and genteel, well-furnished and light-some room, next the street, and a very good light closet in it, in which you may write, and lay all your papers, &c., and keep it locked when you go out. It is to be let at 4*s.* per week, and I look upon it to be better by 18*d.* per week, than anything hereabouts to be let at 3*s.* You have not ordered me what part of the town to take you a lodging in, so I hope (except otherwise engaged) you will do us the honour to be near us. Mr. Smith lodges in the room overhead, and pays the same price: he removed out of the lower room a pair of stairs higher, for the sake of the light, our map plates being now engraving in his room; so if you like the



room, and the price upon the description, it shall be secured to you upon your first notice. The landlady that lives in the house keeps an oil-shop, and is a very genteel and civil woman, and you may have milk or anything else you please taken in, or any other reasonable matters done for you.

“Mr. Smith is now in town, and is busy every day laying down the work, and making more plans ready for the engraving. There has been one rough proof taken off one of the plates. Mr. Smith joins with me in his hearty and humble service to you and Mrs. Thoresby, &c., and shall be heartily glad to hear when we may expect to see you in London, and in the mean time, impatient of your answer, I am, Sir,

“Your obliged friend and very humble Servant,  
“JOSEPH BLAND.”

On the 5th of March Arthur Collins wrote to Thoresby,—

“I had answered yours sooner had I been certain of what I am in hopes of, viz., that I had a chamber in my own house at your service . . . and I hope in a post or two, to acquaint you that I shall take it unkindly if you make any house your own, except mine; whilst you stay in town.’

But Thoresby was already on his way:—

“March 4 (Monday). Took leave of my dear wife and family; rode to Wakefield; took coach for London, in hopes to see both my dear sons at Bugden, and publish the Vicaria Leodiensis. The whole company were from Leeds to London, that encouraged me for the journey. We baited at Elmsal, passed by Nostel and Wragby, where the late Sir Rowland Winne and his lady were buried in the same grave: we lodged at Doncaster.”

“5. At Newark, passed Trent with ease as well as safety: in great danger last time I passed it.”

“6. At Grantham was revived with the public prayers. Mr. Smith preached the Lady Camden’s lecture from “not the form, but the power of godliness.” After dinner, we continued our journey to

"7. Stamford, where we lodged the third night, as we did the fourth at Huntingdon, where both my sons, from Bugden and Cambridge, met me in health. I was much comforted with the sight of them."

"8. We called at Bugden, but could not stay; took leave of my sons. The Lord bless them, &c."

"9. We lodged at Stevenedge, baited at Barnet, and after got well to London."

For the first three days Thoresby took up his quarters at an inn, and then "removed to Mr. Payler Smith's." This appears to be the Mr. Smith spoken of in Mr. Bland's letter, although Joseph Smith, of Exeter Change, was the publisher of the *Vicaria*. As usual, where money matters were involved, Thoresby felt himself hardly dealt with. The day before quitting his inn he "had the company of Captain Stevens, author of the New Monasticon, and Mr. Smith of Exeter Exchange;" and on that day week he writes,—

"Thought Mr. Smith's propositions, about printing my manuscript, very hard, especially considering his promises, and the benefits he received from above one hundred charters I communicated to him for the new Monasticon Anglicanum, for which Mr. Batley gave him 10% to come in as a sharer."

A few days later, however, they came to terms,—

"Walked to the two Exchanges in the Strand; spent time and money in agreeing with Mr. Smith, for printing my manuscript, of which I am to take off forty, he to give me ten. I sent the first sheet to the press."

This was on the 18th of March, and on the 27th, he "received a specimen of the *Vicaria Leodiensis*; corrected it." There are subsequent notices of correcting sheets from the press, and Thoresby sought to quicken its operation by a sort of stimulant not unknown in our own days,—“gave the compositor a shilling to hasten his pace;” but on the 20th of

April he "discoursed earnestly" with Mr. Smith about its slowness, to little effect it seems, for on the 22nd he was "at the printer's, stayed an hour in vain, neither master nor man to be found." He got some fresh sheets that night, but, "not thoroughly dry," they gave him cold, which he felt the effects of next day, notwithstanding he,—“Walked to Mr. Smith's, whose promises are fruitless as to the press.” On the 29th, Thoresby "walked to Exeter Change to reprimand the slowness of the printer;" again he tells of correcting sheets, but,—

"17 June. Walked to Exeter Change in vain."

"18. Corrected a sheet for the press. . . . Walked to Exeter Change and Captain Steven's in vain. . . . Called at the trifling Smith's a third time this day, yet can get nothing done but what I take care of myself."

There was excitement in the immediate neighbourhood that day, which possibly interfered with business after the manner of a holiday; for on his way Thoresby "could scarce pass for the crowd at Temple Bar, where Mr. Layer's head was setting up."\* But the work went on again, supplying him with further proofs for correction.

Again Thoresby strove to keep up his attendance on the daily services, rising about five, and sometimes earlier, for Prayers at St. Paul's Cathedral. One day his Diary commences,—

"Troubled that I missed prayers at St. Paul's, which began between five and six, without any previous notice of the hour."

\* Christopher Layer, Student of the Temple, implicated in a Jacobite conspiracy sometimes called "Layer's Plot," had been tried for High Treason and found guilty in November 1722. His execution was first fixed for the 12th of December, but a point raised led to a reprieve to the 27th March, and there was a second reprieve to the 17th of May, when he suffered at Tyburn. His quarters were given to his friends for interment, but his head was taken to Newgate, and next day, as Thoresby states, set up over Temple Bar.

Afterward he transcribed the orders of the Society of Antiquaries, lent to him by Le Neve, its President. A few days before this he mentions his return from a walk to Crown-Court, Westminster,—

“To visit Mr. Wogan and his spouse, with respects from Lady Betty Hastings; was sufficiently fatigued; walked by Candlelight from that remote part of the town to my lodgings, but called not, as requested, at the Society of Antiquaries.”

On the 3rd of April he writes:—

“After dinner read and wrote till evening prayers; then at Mr. Le Neve, the President’s request, walked to the Society of Antiquaries, by whom caressed more than I deserved; met with some clergy, lawyers and others, very obliging, as Simon Degge, Esq., great-grandson and heir to Sir Simon the Author;\* was pleased to meet with Mr. Kirkpatrick, from Norwich, the history of which place he is writing. Mr. Vertue desired from me the Memoirs of Cousin Lodge to insert with Hollar, &c.† The King-of-Arms was very kind in suffering me to lean upon him in my return.”

Although the Society of Antiquaries did not receive its charter until 1751, its origin is attributed to Humphrey Wanley and others in 1707, and in 1717 it was re-constituted. Its meetings, removed from Gray’s Inn first to the Temple, and then to the Mitre, appear to have been pretty late in the evening. Thoresby attended them on two subsequent occasions:—

“May 1. . . . After church at the Society of Antiquaries till past nine; was mightily pleased with Mr. Peck, who is writing the history of Stamford, who visited me the next day.”‡

\* Sir Simon published a book entitled,—“The Parson’s Counsellor, with the Law of Tythes or Tything.” Simon Degge, M.D., F.R.S., contributed a paper to Phil. Trans. 1727, on a large human skeleton.

† Vol. I., page 159. In the Correspondence is a letter of Vertue’s repeating this request, dated 25 April.

‡ Next day Thoresby also left at Mr. Peck’s lodgings a copy of the *Ducatus*, for which Mr. Peck gave his receipt, and promised his History of Stamford. Thoresby did not live to see it published, but his name is printed among the list

"15. Rose before five; read and wrote till prayers, and after till near one: walked to the pious and charitable Dr. Bray's, at Aldgate; was extremely pleased with his many pious, useful and charitable projects, which detained me most of the afternoon, that I was full late at St. Dunstan's,\* and yet too soon for the Society of Antiquaries, with whom I stayed about two hours, and then left them all."

Le Neve, and others of the College of Arms, paid Thoresby much attention:—

"22 March. At the Herald's Office, with Mr. Le Neve, Norroy, viewing some of his many rare manuscripts, and some coins of Mr. Miller's."

"4 April. [The day after Thoresby's first visit to the Society of Antiquaries],—"Went to the College of Arms, where Mr. Norroy (P. Le Neve, Esq.) entertained me agreeably with the sight of some curious manuscripts relating to Yorkshire. Mr. Jones, the Registrar, was also desirous of my acquaintance, and gave me the Moderator, and other things of his own writing, though without his name."

"25. At Mr. Le Neve's perusing some manuscripts, part of his late valuable purchase; then with him and other heralds."

Robert. Dale, of the Herald's Office, whose first acquaintance with Thoresby preceded Le Neve's, had died on the 4th of

of subscribers. Its author, the Rev. Francis Peck, A.M., Rector of Godesby, Leicestershire, was born at Stamford in 1692. The work is a folio near the same size as the original *Ducatus*, and one of the subscribers was Thoresby's good friend, Mr. Boulter.

\* Dr. Thomas Bray, the leading founder of the Christian Knowledge and Propagation Societies, has already been mentioned (Ante, page 214). Born at Marton in Shropshire, in 1656, he was two years older than Thoresby, and we may well comprehend Thoresby's lingering in his company. Appointed by the Bishop of London, in 1695, his Commissary to Maryland, Dr. Bray had long been actively concerned in missionary enterprises; and his institution of parochial libraries, both at home and in the Colonies, may safely be included among the "pious, useful and charitable projects" which so much gratified Thoresby. It is said that in concert with Bishop Wilson he founded sixteen Lending Libraries in the Isle of Man alone.—See Anderson's *Colonial Church*.

August in the previous year.\* Thoresby visited his widow, and once dined with her. But there still remained Mr. Warburton, Somerset Herald, who on the Monday after Thoresby's arrival accompanied him "to several artists, and the greatest printing-house in Europe, viz., Mr. Tonson's;" to the Library at St. Paul's; and to Mr. Anstis, Garter:—

"6 April. Was most kindly received at the Herald's office, by John Anstis, Esq. chief King-at-Arms, who gave me the impressions of the arms of the Knights of the Garter of the first stall, whose History he has almost finished;† but was disoblged because I durst not promise him a visit to Putney, his country seat."

"10 May. At St. Paul's prayers; went by water with Mr. Le Neve to Putney, where we were most courteously received by John Anstis, Esq., Garter, principal King-at-Arms, who gave me original letters of several of the nobility, and presented me with his original papers of the History of the Garter, so far as he could recover and had already printed. These please me much better than his rich wine and most generous entertainment;‡ from Putney we returned to Chelsea, to see Mr. Salter's Collection of Curiosities, which is really very surprising considering his circumstances as a coffee man; but several persons of distinction have been benefactors."

Another of his entertainers was a friend of long standing, the son of Dean Gale:—

\* In the year after the *Ducatus* was published, Thomas Hearne wrote to Thoresby,—“Mr. Dale is now with us in Oxford. I find that he hath drawn up the pedigree of the Thoresbys more carefully, perhaps, than it was before done in your book: I suppose he will communicate it to you, and then you will be able to judge.”

† Mr. Anstis's "Register of the Most Noble Order of the Garter" was published in the following year.

‡ Thoresby's habits were very simple. A few days after his visit to Mr. Anstis he says,—“Returned with pleasure to my milk dinner;” and on another day,—“Obliged to attend Mr. Harper to the eating of a barrel of oysters at a tavern, though I loved them not.”

"19 March. . . . "Walked to Southampton Buildings, where my kind friend Roger Gale, Esq., had invited several learned men to dine with me, the celebrated Browne Willis, Esq., the Admiral's chaplain, Mr. Tookie; but Dr. Stukeley being confined with the gout, Mr. S. Gale walked with me to visit him, who showed me draughts of Roman Stations he had drawn, and designs to publish."

Dr. Stukeley, like Thoresby, kept an album for autographs, and in it on this occasion Thoresby inscribed his name and motto,—"*Medio tutissimus. R. Thoresby, Mart. 19<sup>o</sup> 1723.*" On the same page are the signatures of Humfredus Wanley, R. Gale and John Horsley. On the page before it is Peter le Neve's."\*

"24 March. Die Dom. Dined at Mr. Gale's."

"28. After dinner at Mr. Gale's, walked with the two brothers to see Mr. Rogers's ingenious machine that he has invented for turning medals in ivory or box, in bas-relief, which was surprising as well as curious; I bought one or two of them: was after with the elder brother at the Royal Society."

"26 April. Dined at Mr. Gale's; had his kind emendations, in a few places, of my quarto manuscript. I saw there a sample of the satin, lately made at Chelsea, of English silkworms, for the Princess of Wales, which was very rich and beautiful."

At the meetings of the Royal Society Thoresby was a frequent attender:—

"14 March. At the Royal Society, where met with several of my old friends, Sir Hans Sloane, Dr. Halley, &c., and several ingenious gentlemen."†

"21. At the Royal Society, where voted for the admission of a foreign Prince (de Cassano, as I remember) and a physician of Constantinople."

\* From the original Album.

† As on some former occasions, Thoresby went to the Grecian Coffee House after the meeting, and there had the company of Dr. Stukeley, not then laid up with gout.

"4 April. Walked to the Royal Society, where I met with several of my old friends, particularly the famous Mr. Derham (to whom I introduced Mr. Palmer, our Yorkshire artist) and Dr. Desaguliers; Mr Palmer showed them his Hydrostatic engine, which was well approved, as also his new invention as to watches."

"11 At the Royal Society; I gave my vote for the Rev. Mr. Williams to be librarian, and keeper of the Museum; he had more votes than most of the eight candidates, yet was outdone by one, viz., Mr. Hawkesby; after I had voted for Mr. Cotton Mather to be F.R.S., returned in time for prayers. This was a very large convention of the Society: I met with good old Dr. Sl . . . and other ancient acquaintance, and never saw so great a number of the Fellows together, three rooms almost filled. Dr. Tancered Robinson and I sat in the same chair."

"2 May. At the Royal Society, where Dr. Jurin, the Secretary,\* read several remarkable accounts of monsters transmitted from beyond sea, and remarks upon inoculation of the small-pox."

"9. At the Royal Society, where Sir James Thornhill, the celebrated painter of the dome of St. Paul's Church, was admitted Fellow. Dr. Jurin read the minutes, produced the draughts, and some monstrous productions. Dr. Middleton Massey from Wisbeach desired to speak with me, and told me he had some manuscripts of Dr. Whichcot's; desired my picture for his Collection, as I did his printed paper of coins; but I was best pleased with the Rev. and pious Mr. Hoole, converted from the Dissenters to the Church, about printing his book."

"23. At the Royal Society, where Dr. Jurin read some ingenious papers received from beyond the sea. After with Mr. Degge and Dr. Stukeley at the Grecian Coffee House."

This was the last meeting of the Society at which Thoresby was present. He had missed the previous one; for dining with some other Members at Dr. Woodward's, and pleased with

\* Dr. Jurin had recently succeeded Halley in the office of Secretary.



their conversation, he "was too late for the Society itself at Crane-Court." He had on the same day, the 16th of April, missed another event that he would doubtless have been most gratified to witness,—

"Dr. Gibson was this forenoon installed Bishop of London, *propria personâ*, at St. Paul's; but the ceremony was over before I was aware of it."

Thoresby had come to London at a season politically eventful, when Gibson, still Bishop of Lincoln, was so occupied by engagements as a Member of the House of Peers, that for some time Thoresby was unable to meet with him:—

"27 March. Walked to the Bishop of Lincoln's, but missed of his Lordship, who being one of the Lords of the Secret Committee, was early about that affair."

This was a Committee which had been appointed to make investigation into alleged Jacobite enterprises, prior to the appearance at the bar of the House of Peers, of the famous Bishop of Rochester, Atterbury, who had been in the Tower, charged with high treason, since the previous October.

"2 April. Walked again to Westminster, but the Bishop of Lincoln's occasions were so pressing that several eminent Divines, D.D.s, were dismissed as well as I."

At the Cotton Library\* on his return he heard of the death of Robinson, Bishop of London. On the 6th, Gibson wrote to him as follows:—

"Good Sir,                      "Duke Street, Westminster, April 6 1723."

"I thank you for the care and pains you have employed in procuring me the Acts of Parliament,† and am sorry that

\* Another day he mentions having seen some curious manuscripts in the Cotton Library,—“Where I was very civilly received by the librarian, Mr. David Casley, who was born at Beeston, in our parish.”

† One of these was an Act concerning Thirkleby Church, which Thoresby had procured a few days before for the Bishop from a Mr. Frankland

to your other trouble in those affairs should be added so many disappointments in your kind intention to see me here. Since I have been concerned in the affair of the plot, as a Member of the Secret Committee, I go out commonly by nine in the morning, or a quarter after, which I doubt is too early for you: but my Secretary shall wait upon you for the two Acts of Parliament, and I will hope to have the favour of seeing you after our work is over. In the meantime, I remain, Sir,

“Your affectionate friend,

“EDM. LINCOLN.”

On the 9th, Thoresby again “walked to the Bishop of Lincoln’s,” but he says no more about it; on the 16th,—

“Walked to Westminster, but the two Bishops I designed to visit dining with the whole bench of Bishops (as it seems is usual on this day), with his Grace of Canterbury, I lost my labour.”

“19. Went to Westminster, to congratulate the Bishop of Lincoln upon his promotion to London.\* Was received with more than ordinary respect and freedom.”

And Gibson’s friendship was not limited to mere courtesy, as we learn from a letter written by Thoresby’s elder son from Bugden, commencing:—

“Honoured Sir,

“I very cheerfully acquiesce under the design of the now Bishop of London, and thank Almighty God that he has raised up so good a friend for me, and it is, which gives me further

\* Gibson’s translation to the See of London had been anticipated, as nearly a fortnight before the death of Bishop Robinson Thoresby relates,—“Walked from Paul’s four long miles, to Dr. Brooke’s lodging, upon his kind letter, suggesting what he thought would be for my advantage; but I found it was nothing but what I knew before, relating to the Bishop of Lincoln’s translation to London.” It appears also to have been anticipated that the Bishop’s translation would involve benefit to the younger Ralph Thoresby. On the 20th of May, when the news could not long have been known in Leeds, Mr. Cookson, the Vicar, wrote to Thoresby,—“I must congratulate you upon Bishop Gibson’s advancement: I hope it will be for your son’s interest.”

pleasure, a great satisfaction to you, that you can in person receive his Lordship's assurances of friendship. My duty to his Lordship; service to Dr. Bettesworth, and all the families, and my service to Mr. Pollett the Secretary: he very kindly gave me my instrument of Priest's Orders, which would have amounted to half-a-guinea."

Thoresby lost no time in communicating the Bishop's good intentions to his son, for this letter is dated only three days after his interview with the Bishop; and the day before it was written the hopes raised were strengthened:—

"21 April. Die Dom. Morning, walked to Lincoln's Inn Chapel; Dr. Lupton preached excellently . . . then walked to Duke Street, Westminster; was courteously received by Dr. Bettesworth, Dean of the Arches, the Bishop's brother-in-law (till his Lordship returned from the Chapel Royal), who assured me of his Lordship's good opinion of my dear son, and design to prefer him; had after dinner a great deal of agreeable discourse with his Lordship, but the King being detained in the morning I was too late for two churches, and being no better for prayers at the third (the poor curate being so hoarse as not to be heard), I stayed at Ludgate Church till prayers began there."

On the 25th Thoresby himself was at the Chapel Royal, on a special occasion:—

"Coached it to St. James's, where, after the prayer for the occasion (thanksgiving for deliverance from the Plague), Dr. Reynolds, the new Bishop of Lincoln,\* preached suitably to the occasion, a sermon which, I suppose, will be printed; had Mr. Blennerhasset's company in the Park till I came to the Bishop of London's, with whom I dined, and had much agreeable discourse concerning his Majesty (the Bishop read the Communion Service in the Chapel Royal) till prayers in the new chapel in that neighbourhood."

\* Dr. Reynolds, formerly Dean of Peterborough, was Hoadley's successor in the See of Bangor, from whence he was translated to Lincoln.

Two days afterward Thoresby wrote home to his wife:—

“On the Thanksgiving-day I was at the Chapel Royal, and saw the King, with the Prince and Princess of Wales. The new Bishop of Lincoln preached very well, and his predecessor, now Bishop of London, read the common service. I afterwards dined with my Lord, and question not his kind remembrance of my son when some suitable preferment happens; for both the Bishop and his brother, the Dean of Arches, speak very well of him, and so did another Bishop.”

In his Diary for the 4th of May, he writes:—

“In my return by Bow Church, was unexpectedly happy in being present at the translation of the (late) Bishop of Lincoln to London. I wrote an account of it to my son at Bugden.”

Atterbury's trial now began:—

“6 May. To Westminster, but the Bishop of Rochester being before the House of Lords, there was no admission: even the Court of Requests was locked.”

And while Thoresby was in church at Evening Prayers on the 11th.,—

“There was a mighty shout in the street, which we were after told was upon the Bishop of Rochester's passing by, some crying out, ‘no Popish Bishop! no English Cardinal!’ but the Guards restrained them as much as possible.”

Little sympathy as Thoresby can have had with Atterbury, he adds,—“from mobs of all sorts, *libera nos Domine.*” The Bill of Pains and Penalties against the Bishop passed its third reading in the Lords on the 15th, but Thoresby has no more on the subject, though on the 14th he “walked to the Bishop of London's, and thence to Westminster Hall.”

Amongst others whom Thoresby visited were his old friend Mr. Chamberlain, in Petty France; Sir William Lowther, of whom he says that he “carried us in his own coach to his

house, near Hanover Square (a new and spacious one) where we dined, and were courteously entertained, his lady and daughters being desirous to see the Musæum;" Sir Griffith and Lady Boynton, with whom he dined in Pall Mall; Sir John Ingleby; and Mr. Molyneux, who had applied to him for news when the Jacobites invaded the North-Western Counties:—

"Coached it from Holborn to Hanover Square to wait upon Mr. Molyneux, the Prince of Wales's Secretary, who was very respectful; but his library and curiosities being at Kew, I was in part disappointed, though he invited me earnestly, but cannot possibly have time to go thither."

And a few days before quitting London, he,—

"Walked to the Earl of Pembroke's; but his Lordship being yet confined to his room, I went to Sir Andrew Fountain's, who received me kindly, and gave me a copper medal of Nero and Poppea, and the picture of the Grand Duke of Tuscany, the most ancient Virtuoso in Europe. I then took a tedious walk to Lord Harley's in Dover Street, and in vain, his Lordship being in the country."

He was not less frequent in his attendance at the meetings of the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge than at those of the Royal Society, and obtained from it "an additional grant for bibles and prayer-books for the Charity School." There he met Lord Percival, Sir John Phillips, and his acquaintance Sir Daniel Dolings. He spent a Sunday with the Secretary of the Society, Mr. Newman, going twice to the Temple Church where in the morning its famous Master, Dean Sherlock, preached,—

"Very well so far as I could hear, from 2 Cor. iv. 17, but I heard badly, though I sat in the next seat to the Benches."

Elsewhere there are indications that his hearing grew defective, and he could not walk as in former days,—

"At the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge, whence Sir John Phillips constrained me to dine with him; so good company, and the conveniency of a coach for my bad feet, tempted me to accept the motion."

He left one of the Society's meetings sooner than he otherwise would have done "in hopes of meeting Mr. Strype, *adhuc in vivis*, but disappointed." On Sunday the 28th of April, Mr. Newman took him to Hackney, where Strype preached in the afternoon:—

"Mr. Newman was so kind as to call upon me, and give me a coach to Hackney, where Mr. Newcome preached from 'In all things give thanks;' for mercies, afflictions, nay, even infirmities—in all stations, and in all duties. He preached excellently and eloquently. We dined at our good friend's Sir Daniel Dolings, where we were generously and piously entertained; his lady gave me an account of their pious daughter, whose funeral sermon and character have already had a second edition. Afternoon, good old Mr. Strype preached very well so far as I could hear. After a little stay at Sir Daniel's, we walked over the fields to London; met Mr. Newcombe, who had been preaching there this afternoon."

It does not appear that Thoresby ever again saw Strype, who wrote to him the following letter:—

"Leyton, May 20 1723."

"Dear Sir,

"You could not be more desirous to see me than I you. I have been twice in pursuit of you, when I came to town, but have missed you. Both your letters (this last which I received but this day, and a former) were very acceptable to me, since I cannot otherwise enjoy you.

"I was perfectly acquainted with Dr. Lightfoot's hand; for I had all his writings committed to me by his son-in-law: and because such autographs are pleasing to you, I have sent you one of his own sermons, of his own handwriting, which I believe you will value; and by it you will be able to judge whether your autograph be his or no.

"When I see Sir Daniel Dolins I shall take notice to him of what you write. I shall hardly be in town this week, for these little journeys now make me weary; yet, blessed be God, notwithstanding my great age, I enjoy good health, and am able to go on with the same sort of studies of our Church's and Churchmen's history (within the compass of Queen Elizabeth's reign) as I have formerly followed. I shall be very glad now and then to hear from you when you return, if I see you not before; and this enclosed shall remain with you as a real testimony of my esteem for you, and thankfulness for those valuable things you have taken the pains formerly to transcribe and communicate to me. To conclude,

"I am ever, dear Sir,

"Your very affectionate friend, and humble servant,

"JOH. STRYPE."

The humourous but now aged Parsen Plaxton had left Barwick, and was at this time in London; but Thoresby only says of him,—*"To enquire after Mr. Plaxton, sick."* Mr. Boulter was in Town also, and Thoresby had his company repeatedly. In one place he says,—

*"Visited Mr. Boulter, who gave me a duplicate of a manuscript, and Sir John Chardin's Travels into Persia, translated at his request by his Cousin Lloyd. Mr. Boulter showed me also sixteen or eighteen volumes of ingenious and useful manuscripts translated from foreign languages at his charge, by a French Refugee, so usefully and profitably does he spend part of his great estate for the public good."*

Thoresby had hoped for Mr. Boulter's company again home, but he remained longer in Town. After mentioning his visit of congratulation to the new Bishop of London, on the 19th of April, he continues:—

*"Then went by water to Fox-hall, and thence, with Mr. Boulter in his chariot, through many pleasant country towns to Kingston, where we dined; and, after passing the Thames,*

we returned through another part of that pleasant country to Kensington. Visited his mother, and other relations, with Dr. Haigh (*en passant*); walked from Charing Cross in the dark to my lodgings, musing upon my disappointment of Mr. Boulter's company both to Cambridge and Leeds. Had a pleasant prospect of the country at the top of the hill, but a melancholy one at the bottom; the Earl of Rochester's palace being lately burnt down with that violence that they could scarce save their lives."

"29 April. Met accidentally with Mr. Boulter, who obliged me to dine with him at the Rose Tavern."

There has incidentally been mentioned several additions to Thoresby's collection during his stay in London, and it received another from a Mrs. Vandeput, whom Thoresby visited several times,—

"Walked again to Mrs. Vandeput's, who gave me a very small shred of the black silk embroidery of the cloak that King Charles the First had on when he went to be beheaded; the Princess of Wales has the rest, which she purchased of the heir of Sir Thomas Herbert."

And by purchase and otherwise, he made additions to his library:—

"8 April. After dinner walked to the Strand to Mr. Smith's, but he being abroad, I spent most of the time with Captain Stevens, who giving me his *Monasticon Hibernicum*, I treated him at tavern (2s.); after prayers, at Baitman's, the noted bookseller's, and at the auction with Mr. Mattaire."

"13. Looking amongst some pamphlets; bought several Bishops' and Archbishops' sermons, with others, at pence a-piece."

"15. At Mrs. Vandeput's, and thence to Mr. King's; sought out more valuable books at a penny a-piece, as many as came to 4s. 2d."

He states also,—“Sent for by Dr. Woodward to the Auction at Paul's Coffee-house, where some of Mr. Rawlinson's books sold at a prodigious rate, but I bought nothing.”



He made some purchases on behalf of the Vicar of Leeds, who says in the before-mentioned letter,—

“We are very much obliged to you for your diligence in procuring us so many books, and return you our hearty thanks: if you please to send the account, you shall have a bill returned speedily.”

Thoresby wrote to his wife on the 27th of April,—

“I meet with respect enough, but long to be at home to enjoy dear relations, and to save charges; for though I live as savingly as possible, money goes fast.”

The next day he began preparing to return:—

“28 April. After morning prayers, with Mr. Innys; then at the Society for promoting Christian Knowledge; took leave of some dear friends, whom I never expect to see again in this world, but hope, through the merits of Jesus Christ, to meet in a better. Spent the rest of this week in a continued hurry, packing up and taking leave of friends, particularly the Bishop of London, who gave me good encouragement as to my son; and the Bishop of Man; Dr. Bettesworth, Dean of Arches and brother to the Bishop of London; but I ought not to omit the humanity of the celebrated Lord Chief Justice Wright, whose history of the Creed I admire much. I have his Lordship’s, Bishop of Man’s, Dean Bettesworth’s, and Sir Thomas Lowther’s (one of the Christian Society) mottoes in my Travelling Album.”

The foreboding that he should not again see the friends with whom he parted was justified; and Thoresby now ended the last of his visits to London:—

“3 June. I rose early: at four, walked to Holborn; had Mr. Smith’s and Mr. Bland’s company to the stage-coach, where had the hap of good company, and agreeable—Esquire Thornhill of Fixby, and Mr. Burwell of Ackworth; found the dust and heat troublesome. We lodged at Biggleswade, where enjoyed both my sons’ company, and Mr. Boulter Tomlinson’s, from Cambridge.”

His elder son had expressed the hope in the before-quoted letter that Thoresby would come in the Huntingdon stage-coach to Bugden, and stay some time with him; suggesting that as the Cambridge term would divide about the 25th of June, his brother Richard and his father might then travel home in company. But Thoresby proceeded with the coach:—

“4 June. Morning; parted with my sons and Mr. T. at Huntingdon. We lodged the second night at Stamford, where I expected the ingenious Mr. Peck; was troubled, lest his absence be occasioned through sickness, having given him, as he requested, due notice by post.”

“5. Morning; continued our journey this longest stage, and reached Barnby Moor, where so many coaches that some were ill put to it for lodgings, but by the management of Mr. Barwell, we got a good chamber and two beds.”

“6. Proceeded. Dined at Doncaster; parted with my good chamber-fellow at Ackworth. Son Wood was so kind as to meet me at his brother Croft’s: \* at Wakefield, was attended by Cousin Wilson’s clerk, and his own horse for me, and Cousin Cookson’s man and horse for my portmanteau. Returned wearied to Leeds, and found all in health there.”

This was on the Thursday; and Thoresby spent the following Monday evening with Alderman Milner, Dr. Tomlinson and others, “to drink Mr. Boulter’s guinea token.” His younger son was not long in following him home, for on Sunday the 16th of June, he writes,—“The Vicar preached so well from John i, 4, ‘If God so loved, &c,’ that son Richard said he had not heard such a sermon since he left Leeds.” He wrote again to the Rev. Francis Peck, and received the following reply, explaining his non-appearance at Stamford:—

\* The younger Ralph Thoresby had said in his letter, — “My Brother Wood, I suppose, has conceived undeservedly some resentment. for I have wrote, but can get no answer, which gives me no small uneasiness;” and Thoresby’s own letter to his wife begins,—“I am concerned for your long silence, and so is my son at Buckden that his brother Wood will not answer one of his letters: he fears he has unwillingly disobliged him.”

"Goadby Marwood, near Melton Mowbray,  
"in Leicestershire, June 27 1723."

"Honoured Sir,

"Yours of the 23rd of May and the 21st of June both came safe to hand, but my distance from Stamford being now above three times farther than the place of my former residence, the first which gave me the summons I waited for, to meet you there, arrived not, to my great concern, for want of a quick conveyance from Stamford hither, before Mr. Thoresby was gone past: a most ungrateful disappointment to one that respects him so much as I do.

"The plate, leaf and remarks I promised shall be sent, the first time I go to Stamford, by the coach. I am not yet half settled in my new abode, but shall always covet to hear from you; and when I have once got a little more time to command, will send you as long a letter as I wish to receive. Meantime, pardon this hasty scribble, and believe me to be, with the greatest respect and gratitude for your kind opinion of so obscure a man as I am,

"Honoured Sir,

"Your most devoted and most humble servant,

"FRANCIS PECK."

"I have not yet had time to run over your book; when I have done so, perhaps I may trouble you with a few remarks upon it; not to find fault, but either to improve myself or entertain you. Mr. Smith sends me word he is concerned in an octavo publication of yours; when I have read the folio, I am sure it will make me buy that."\*

The *Vicaria* was still in hand when the author left London, and letters from the publisher, Mr. Smith, quickly followed him, urging its completion:—

"June 12 1723."

"Sir,

"I hope by this time you are safe arrived at your own home. I have been at the charge of drawing and gravings the

\* The original letter is now in the possession of J. H. Wurtzburg, Esq.

plate of your New Church more sizeable than it was before. Pray let me have my Lady Hastings' coat of arms, with the corrections of this proof if there be any; and a draught of title as soon as you possibly can, that I may publish the book before I leave the town. And as for Archbishop Sharp's monument, if you have not got the account that you expected, let it go without. I hope the contents, and everything are ready. Vacation time draws on apace. If the book does not come out soon, the town will be so thin that most buyers will be gone in the country. Our friend Mr. Boulter desires to be remembered to you. Pray accept of my service. I am, Sir,

"Your assured friend and humble servant,

"JOSEPH SMITH."

On the same day with Mr. Peck, 27 June, Mr. Smith again wrote in somewhat peremptory terms:—

"Sir,

"If you do not send up the title and plates, I will finish the book as it is. You take no notice of the new plate of the Church I have had graved, whether it is as it should be. Pray send me your answer by the next post, if you will have it go with a dedication or without; and what number you will have sent down to you, and by what carrier. Mr. Boulter received your's, and wishes that you would despatch it before we come in the country. My wife joins with me in service to you. I am

"Your humble servant,

"JOSEPH SMITH."

But the publisher's urgency with the author had no better success than the author's had had in London with the printer. Thoresby, again accompanied by Mr. Lucas, left home for a short visit to Lady Betty Hasting's while this second letter was on its way, and but for his publication would have staid longer than he did. On Monday the 1st of July he writes,—

"Morning; took leave of the pious lady, who urged me to stay till next Monday, when Mr. Lucas promised to come

again for me; but I could not for the printers; that I returned with my good friend, got well home, and in good time."

He had, it appears, written to the Archbishop of York concerning the dedication of his work, and received the following reply:—

"Bishopthorpe, July 3 1723."

"Sir,

"You are very obliging in offering to dedicate to me what you have written, and are about to publish, concerning the Church of Leeds. I wish the prefixing my name to your book may, in any measure, recommend that, proportionally to the honour which I doubt not it will receive from it. I am, with great truth, Sir,

"Your assured friend and humble servant,

"W. EBOR."

On the 11th, Thoresby was "at Cousin Wilson's for dedication to Vicaria Leod.," and on the 13th he "all day read and wrote [preface to the Vicaria Leod.] save usual attendance at Church." Mr. Smith soon gave up idea of the prompt publication that he had proposed, on the 18th writing thus:—

"Sir,

"I received both your letters, and shall endeavour to obey your orders. I was loth to put you to the charge of letters, made me not write. I was with my Lord Bishop of London, and he was glad to hear your book is so near coming out, and approves of the book very well. I believe you will be of opinion not to publish it till towards winter, the town being empty; but we may oblige most of our friends before if you think proper. I will print the title in black and red. Mr. Boulter, our friend, desires to be remembered to you, and wishes us both success. I am, Sir,

"Your humble servant,

"JOSEPH SMITH."

On the 24th of August Smith wrote,—“I am going to open my new house, and should be glad to have your books

to publish there, to make a beginning, hoping to have success in so good an author. The plates are printed off;" and again on the 12th of September:—

"Sir,

"I received yours, and am sorry you are not well; am in hopes this will find you much better. As to the binding of your books, you may have them bound in plain calf for tenpence and in sheep for sixpence; and for the three, for the two Bishops and Mr. Boulter, you shall pay me no more than they cost me. The arms for the Lady Betty Hastings are as you ordered in the new plate; and shall send you one by the first frank I can get, with the proof of your dedication and title. You may direct for me near Exeter 'Change, in the Strand. Mr. Boulter gives his service to you, and wishes you health and prosperity, as likewise does your

"Most obedient humble servant,

"JOS. SMITH."

Just a week from the date of this letter Thoresby wrote in his Diary,—“Put a finishing stroke to my preface to the Vicaria Leod.;" and it was well, for evidently his health and strength were declining. Near the middle of July he visited “Parson Robinson, who by his continual slumbering seems to be upon the confines of eternity;" and about a month later he wrote:—

“Aug 13. Read; then in library till obliged to lie down after prayers; visited Parson Robinson, the Benefactor, who is much better, *Laus Deo!* but myself had a very bad night.”

“14. Read Whitby; was agreeably surprised and half-cured by a letter from my son, whom I hope to enjoy to-morrow.”

“15. Upon return from evening prayer, found my dear son from Bugden; was thankful for the mercy.”

It was the eve of Thoresby's 66th birthday:—

“Aug. 16. The day of my nativity, when I complete my sixty-sixth year. I got little time to consider the mis-spence

of so much time, as I usually set apart this anniversary to do, which partly my infirmity, and partly company to visit my son prevented. But I rejoiced in the goodness of God, that I enjoyed the pleasing society of my posterity to the third generation."

The next afternoon he was visited by Cousin Wilson and Dr. Tomlinson, and in the evening had Parson Plaxton's successor at Barwick-in-Elmet, along with another Clergyman, to see the library; but,—

"Aug. 19. Die Dom. After family prayer, wherein had my son's assistance, accompanied him to the Vicar's and thence to church, though my distemper forced me out of it; but after a little fresh air I returned in time to hear him preach from James i, 13-14: 'Let no man ~~say~~ I am tempted of God;' whence he showed very well what is to be understood, &c. I afterwards dined with my sons at the Vicar's. Afternoon, Mr. Day preached very well, but prevented of noting the heads."

"20. Morning, could do little by reason of my distemper, but walked with my son to Cousin Whitaker's; got to Church, but was uneasy. Afternoon, walked from Alderman H.'s with some clergymen and my sons to see the camp;\* in return visited relations (Esquire Rookes, from Rhodes Hall) at Cousin Wilson's. After evening prayers could do nothing."

During the next two days he received a visit from Cousin T. Whitaker; was at Cousin Cookson's, "who showed us his pleasant new gardens;" had his fellow-traveller from London, Mr. Barwell of Ackworth, to see the Musæum, dined with his two sons at Alderman Milner's; visited Dr. Tomlinson, and went to see the progress of the new church. Then his illness returned and increased.

"24 Aug. After a very bad night could do little but lie upon the bed; till eleven at church, when forced to the

\* On the 4th, Thoresby had been "to see the soldiers at Leeds in their new camp."

quire door for air: yet, after dinner, accompanied my sons to relations at town end; and after, against my mind, constrained to show the museum to Sir W. C.'s sister."

"26. Die Dom. Read Whitby; but was not able to get to Church, which was a very sensible affliction to me. I attempted to improve my involuntary absence from the House of God, but was able to do little, being forced every quarter of an hour to lie down; yet, at intervals, read five of Mr. Blair's sermons on the beatitudes."

"27. All day confined by my infirmity."

He again rallied a little, and on the last day of the month made some extra exertion upon a visit by the Bishop of Peterborough:—

"31 Aug. The learned Dr. Kennett, Bishop of Peterborough, visited me early, to view the manuscripts and museum, with which he was much pleased. I spent as much time with his Lordship as my weakness would permit, and lent him a manuscript folio. Afterwards, Alderman Rooke called on me to carry me to the New Church\* in his chariot; after prayers, made a short visit to the Bishop; and after dinner, was with his Lordship a little at Alderman Rooke's, and after at Alderman Milner's till he left the town."

Bishop Kennet had come over from Wakefield. Among his M.S.S. in the Lansdowne Collection is the following:—

"While at Wakefield in Aug. 1723, at the house of Captain Burton, who had lately married the Widow Howe, daughter of my wife by her former husband, Dr. Clopton Havers, I borrowed Mr. Thoresby's *Ducatus Leodiensis*, fol. MDCCXV, and shall take some notes of things most agreeable to my present thoughts and views." After this are eight pages of extracts.

"Mem. I borrowed of Mr. Thoresby of Leeds, a book of Miscellan. Collections, M.S. fol., wherein are observable,"—

\* St. John's.



"p. 1. Register of Leeds belonging Free School, &c."

"p. 37. King James's Letters of Commission to Toby, Abp. of York, Henry de Clifford, &c., to inquire into Charities in the West-Riding. Among other particulars,—'Thomas Wright of Kirkgate gave by his last Will, 30th of March 1636, twenty shillings yearly to Mr. Robert Todd, Minister at the New Church in Leeds during his continuance there, and afterwards to the Lecturer at the Old Church in Leeds for ever.'"

Thoresby's illness increased:—

"2 Sept. Die Dom. Morning, ventured to new Church; sat for coolness in the vestry, and for the conveniency of slipping out for air. My dearest son preached very well from I Cor. x. 31. 'Do all to the glory of God.' . . . My distemper prevents my noting the heads."

Nevertheless he gives a summary of the introductory part of his son's sermon, with the first and third heads; perhaps at the second he had gone out for air. It was on the day after this he paid the money to make an end of the Mill Hill Chapel dispute, and on the same day his eldest son left him:—

"But what I was vastly concerned for, was parting with my dearest son, who began his journey for Bugden."

"4 Sept. Had a bad forenoon; and after, fit for nothing but sauntering."

"5. Yet worse; was not able to reach church; I was obliged to return to my old course of the *Cortex Peruv.* with three grains of the snake-root in each bolus: finished the perusal of Capt. Stevens' edition of the *Monasticon Hibernicum*, wherein, with abundance of superstition, are some curious and instructive remarks concerning the ancient state of religion in that island."

"6 & 7. My indisposition kept equal pace as formerly, and so my slender devotions."

"8. This day in like manner; to oblige relations stirred not out all day, save to prayers afternoon; yet never had so sad a night as the following: was awaked about midnight by a most terrible pain at my heart, which was so violent, that the anguish thereof made the sweat trickle down from my head to my breast. I had also more than a touch of the pain at the back of my head, which drew tears from my dear wife, who sat weeping over me two hours, which wounded me deeply. This fit was so discouraging as not only to confine me to my room, but put in a bill, though *sans* name, to desire the prayers of the church; this had the effect, that a vast number of friends from all parts of the town, and some of the parish, sent in a most affectionate manner to inquire after me; and I question not, but accompanied this with their prayers. In the interim I read some, and son Richard read others, of Mr. Blair's sermons;\* but when night came, went to bed with expectations of the return of the dismal fit, but a Divine blessing upon the Doctor's prescription prevented its return."

"9. Read Blair's sermons, was all day in my chamber, but in a tolerable state: our good Vicar prayed with me."

He remained indoors again next day, but wrote letters to his son and others; yet again the disease increased:—

"12 Sep. Had the worst day that ever I had since the distemper seized me; yet it pleased God to give me a good night's mercies intermixed."

"13 and 14. Somewhat better, though not able to get to church, but had the Vicar's kind assistance in my chamber."

"15. Die Dom. My illness continued so strongly upon me, that I was not in a condition to get to church either end of the day, but read, or heard read, several of Mr. Blair's excellent sermons."

"16 The fit more favourable, that I was able to prosecute my study a little, *Laus Deo!* Took air in the garden."

\* James Blair, M.A., notable for his missionary labours in Virginia, wrote 117 sermons upon The Sermon on the Mount. They were published in London, 1722 to 24, in five volumes.

It was on the third day afterward that, as before stated, Thoresby finished his preface to the *Vicaria*; and on the next:—

“Received a courteous letter from Ledstone-hall, and a most endearing message from the pious lady, who enquired affectionately of my Cousin Wilson concerning my health; and if the doctors thought the country air might contribute to my recovery, her Ladyship would send her coach for me; this was kind and reviving.”

He was unable to attend Church on the following Sunday, but got to prayers on the Tuesday and Wednesday:—

“24 Sep. Was much affected at prayers, where a bill was put in for two persons under sentence of death: viz., two soldiers, that it is supposed will be shot to-morrow.”

“25. Read Blair; after my fit was over, visited by Parson Robinson, the benefactor, till near prayers; when were three burials (Mr. Cotton, &c.) and three christenings.”

Here we have again an indication of uneasiness in regard to his younger son. The last given extract concludes:—“Evening, disordered by the absence of son Richard;” and the next entries are:—

“26 Sep. After a very bad and tedious night for his absence, had as bad a day, the fit recurring with more violence, and also more early by some hours, that I had a long and tiresome day; and very disagreeable, because of the unpleasant, though necessary, duty of reproof.”

“27. Was better; got to church, and walked to Mr. K.’s to inquire for company for my poor son to Cambridge.”

“28. Had a bad day; whether it be the nature of the distemper, or my fretting and dejection of spirit, I know not, but was apt to think that what I was flattered was working off, seems now tending to a dissolution of this frail body.”

After this, although it cannot be said that he ever fully regained his health, Thoresby rallied in some measure. On the

last day of the month he was "with the Lords of the Manor about business, though to little purpose. . . Got cold notwithstanding care." From the 2nd of September to Sunday the 13th of October, he had not heard a sermon, but then, in the afternoon, "Ventured to Church, even against the affectionate intreaties of relations." On the following Tuesday he was "at Cousin Wilson's christening of daughter Eliz., had a very good company of clergy, yet durst not stay for fear of cold;" on Friday, at the Funeral of Dr. Midgeley, when the Vicar preached a sermon; and on Saturday, "all day with the Lords of the Manor choosing constables, save a little to wait upon the Archbishop of York, at Cousin Milner's." The next day he heard the Archbishop preach in the morning,—

"He preached excellently, but I heard not distinctly, and blamed my bad ears (not inattention, for I was very desirous to hear and practise) till I heard a general concern for his Grace's voice being much weakened since he preached here formerly."

Thoresby went to Alderman Milner's to take leave of the Archbishop next day. On the 24th of October, his younger son left him to return to college,—

"Missed prayers, in taking leave of my dear son for Cambridge; which I did, as my wife also, with a sad heart."

Although Thoresby thus went about again, he was still feeble. On the 1st of November he writes,—

"From Church walked to Burmandtofts to visit Cousin Whitaker and Mr. Moulton, both of them indisposed; was scarce able to walk home."

On the afternoon of the 2nd,—

"At funeral of Mr. Cunliffe, dead in his prime; he was one of the three gentlemen in this street, lately prayed for, of whom I only, though the eldest by much, remain alive."

He was at church on Sunday the 10th when,—

“The Vicar preached from Deut. xvi, 18. Suitably to the occasion of the Mayor’s appearance: showing the duty of judging the people with just judgement, especially to make them observe the Lord’s Day, else there will be no regard to him all the week after.”

Then a new danger threatened him,—“under discouragement through the apprehension of a fistula. I earnestly begged of God that I might not dishonour him by impatience;” and the next three days he kept his chamber, except when able to get to church. But this seems to have passed over, and he went out again, on the 21st of November, attending “at the Moot-Hall to take the oaths appointed by the late Act of Parliament.” This was an Act passed in the preceding session as an antidote to Jacobite conspiracies. It required all Papists in Scotland, and everyone in England, to take the oaths of allegiance to the House of Hanover if they had not before taken them, by the 25th of December 1723; failing which they were to register their names and real estates by the 25th of March following, under penalty of forfeiture.\*

At this time, when his own life appeared so precarious, Thoresby lost two intimate friends, one in London, and the other in his own neighbourhood, and both Fellows of the Royal Society. On the 8th of November he writes,—

“Troubled for the death of my late dear friend, John Chamberlain, Esq., F.R.S., and Secretary to the Society for Propagating the Gospel in Foreign Parts, and for Queen Anne’s Bounty.”

“25. This day Cyril Arthington, of Arthington, Esq., F.R.S., was interred; and I cannot but recollect, what alterations a few years have made in the Wharf-dale gentry.

\* 9 Geo. I. c. 24. It was superseded by another in the following year, which extended the time for taking the oaths, and made certain exceptions.

Mr. Kirk and his son, Mr. Dyneley and his son; Mr. Hitch (about a month ago) and his brother, and now Mr. Arthington, most, if not all of them younger than me.”\*

On the 28th of November, Thoresby records that he spent some days in reviewing former Diaries,—

“Not knowing but that the next Lord’s Day may be the last time, considering my present weakness, that I may have an opportunity of receiving the Lord’s Supper.”

A memorandum in his “tenth Diary,” of “the Word of God being an excellent preparative for eternity,” led him to try and ascertain how many times he had read it,—

“I was desirous to know, as far as I could retrieve it, how often I had read the Bible over again in my family, but not having noted it so particularly before, I am forced to begin my account the month before my happy marriage.”

He then gives a summary of the readings enumerated in a former chapter,† from the 4th of January 1685 to his birthday in 1713; with this appended:—

“Since which time I have read the Bible six times, but being without Paraphrase or Annotations, need not be particularly mentioned.”

“11 June 1718. I begun the New Testament, with the pious Mr. Burkitt’s Expository Notes and Practical observations; an excellent family book, which I finished August 1, 1719; and then begun the learned Dr. Hammond upon the New Testament, which I ended 22nd May, 1720; the paraphrase proper for a family, but the annotations being more scholastical,

\* Thoresby’s friend and fellow traveller Thos. Kirk, of Cookridge, left one son only of the same name, who died about three years after his father, without issue. John Dyneley of Bramhope was living at the publication of the *Ducatus*, and had issue by his second wife, Charity, daughter of Dr. Walker, famous in association with the siege of Londonderry in 1689;” but the Dyneley’s of Bramhope have recently become extinct. Robert Hitch, of Leathley in Wharfedale, was grandson of Hitch, Dean of York.

† Ante, page 13.

I read frequently in my closet. The other two volumes, from Job to Malachi, being since published by my late dear friend Mr. M. Henry, I read them in family; and Mr. Daubuz (my late learned friend) upon the Revelations, in secret: and have since read the former volume of Dr. Whitby's Paraphrase and Commentary on the New Testament, and upon six of the Epistles in the second volume, which I read, not as placed, but in that order of time in which they were written."

If ill-health and the loss of old friends contributed toward Thoresby's depression, on the other hand a reliable provision made for his elder son must have tended to soothe and perhaps inspirit him. Gibson did not fail to make good the hopes which he raised on his translation to London. On the 6th of December 1723, he collated the Rev. Ralph Thoresby to the Vicarage of Rickmansworth, or Rickmersworth, in Hertfordshire. Thoresby writes on the 17th,—

"Received a comfortable letter from my dear son Thoresby, about his new living, and his solicitude for the spiritual welfare of his parishioners, which refreshed me."

"18. Writ a letter of thanks to my kind friend the Bishop of London, writ also to my dear son at Rickmansworth."

On that same day he paid the ten pounds which he had subscribed towards the new church that was building, although only a fortnight before this he tells,—“A little abroad about business, disposing of some plate to discharge what was laid out for my children.” It is not unlikely that the publication of the *Vicaria*, about this time completed, helped to dispose of his ready money. On the 1st of November, his publisher had written to him as follows:—

“Sir,

“I fear you are relapsed, not hearing from you after two letters, with the proof I sent last, franked by my Lord Bishop of London, which, I fear, has miscarried. I saw his Lordship this day; he enquired after you and your book, and is very

glad to hear it is done, and speaks very handsomely of it. I believe it is done, and well printed, and needs no correction of errata. Would you be pleased to have the Archbishop's copy bound here, and sent down, or delivered to him when his Grace comes to town? I shall be glad to know your mind, that I may publish the book, for the town begins to be full. I should be loth to lose this opportunity. I am yours to serve you, and shall be glad of any opportunity to be,

“Your most obedient humble servant,

“JOSEPH SMITH.”

On the last day of the month he wrote again:—

“Sir,

“Pray do not make yourself uneasy upon the Dedication, Title and Preface, for my Lord of London has supplied your place, and, I believe, all things will answer your expectations. If you design to have any bound, you will do well to give me notice, or if you will have them all in sheets. I inquired of my Lord for your son; he is not come, but they expect him. Mr. Boulter desires to be remembered to you. We drank your health, and hope to see you before you are aware. I am, Sir,

“Your humble servant,

“JOSEPH SMITH.”

Mr. Hunter places the following undated letter before the above, but evidently it is subsequent:—

“Sir,

“According to your order, I have sent your books, ten in sheep, ten in calf, thirty unbound, and four, as you ordered, better than ordinary bound. My Lord of London has his, and Mr. Boulter his; they both received them with pleasure, and seem to be well satisfied. I hope they will answer every body's expectation, and that you will soon want more. I have not sold any yet, and do not propose selling any until after the holidays, and then I will advertise them. In the mean time you may dispose of the greater part of them to your friends in the country. I have considered the charge,—paper



and printing, and printing of the plates, and graving two new ones, will be three shillings and ninepence, and to the book-sellers five shillings per copy. Your son was here, but went out of town before I [could] see him. I am,

“Your humble servant,

“JOSEPH SMITH.”

	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
“For 50 books, at . . . .	3	9	each 9	7	6
For 4 ditto, at . . . .	3	9	.. 0	15	0
Binding the four, at . . .	2	6	.. 0	10	0
Paid for binding 10 in calf, at	0	10	.. 0	8	4
Paid for ditto 10 in sheep, at	0	6	.. 0	5	0
<hr/>					
£11 . 5 . 10”					
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The *Vicaria Leodiensis* is described upon its title-page as “The History of the Church of Leedes in Yorkshire. Containing an Account of the Learned Men, Bishops and Writers, who have been Vicars of that populous Parish; with the Catalogues of their Works, Printed and Manuscript.” But this only fills, including Dedication to the Archbishop (whose “Affinity to this Parish thro’ the Marriage of Your Grace’s only Daughter to a Learned and Ingenious Baronet, a Native thereof,” is not forgotten),\* and the Preface, one hundred and thirty-seven of two hundred and thirty-eight octavo pages. The remainder consists, as further set forth upon the title-page, of “The Lives of several Archbishops of *York*, and other eminent Persons, Benefactors to that church; with many other Things interspers’d, relating to the City and County of *York*. And Archbishop *Thoresby*’s memorable Exposition of the Decalogue, Creed, and Lord’s Prayer. With an Appendix of Original Records, and Manuscripts.” It bears the imprint,—

\*The Archbishop’s Father, created Baronet in 1663, was of Putney, Surrey, and his Mother an Essex Lady.

“London: Printed for Joseph Smith, from *Exeter-Change*, near the *Fountain Tavern* in the *Strand*, 1724;” and a page of books printed and sold by him is inserted, among which is the third volume of Dugdale’s *Monasticon*.

The former part of the book has a short introductory chapter, followed by a tabular list of the Vicars of Leeds, commencing with Alanus de Shirburn in 1242. Then follow biographical notices of many of them down to the reign of Elizabeth, in which, though brief, Thoresby has made the most of the scanty material forthcoming. And in the *Vicaria* he has preserved information of the ecclesiastical condition of the Parish at and about the era of the Reformation; of the lapse of the Rectorial Tithes and Advowson to the Crown upon the dissolution of Monasteries; the grant of the Tithes to Christ Church, Oxford, and of the Advowson to private hands, and the eventual purchase of the Advowson for the Parishioners late in the reign of Elizabeth. Much of this would otherwise have been lost, or more forgotten than it is.

With Robert Cooke, the first Vicar appointed after the purchase, a series of biography at greater length commences, which continues through the time of the Rebellion and Restoration, and closes with the lives of Thoresby’s personal friends Milner and Killingbeck. His relative Cookson’s name is added to the prefixed table, but further than this, being still alive when the book was published, he is only noticed incidentally in the Preface and elsewhere.

Thoresby labours in a way both amusing and characteristic to apologise for his introduction of the biography of the latter part of his publication into a work professedly local. “Archbishop Hutton made that memorable award relating to the Vicars of Leeds, and the Impropriators, which is of force unto this day;” to Archbishop Sandys we had no immediate claim, “save that he instituted the first Protestant Vicar of

this town," therefore what related to him was short, and his epitaph was necessarily inserted because omitted from Thoroton's Nottinghamshire, and destroyed along with his monument by the lightning at Southwell. Archbishop Matthews "was a Benefactor to the Church of Leeds;" and the third Earl of Huntingdon, Lord President of the North from 1572 to 1596, had mediated between Leeds and the owner of its Advowson, who thereupon, abated twenty pounds in his price. "No person of curiosity," Thoresby continues, "but will be pleased with the annexed list of the Lords Presidents of the King's Council in the North, from the first institution of that Court at York to its dissolution, but never before printed, and the Manuscript copy is very rare." The best argument in his favour is,—that in outstepping strictly local bounds in his *Vicaria* he gave to posterity a record of value, that any historian of the age to which it relates may consult with profit. His account of that great ornament to the Thoresby Pedigree, the builder of the Choir at York, Edward the Third's Lord Keeper, the Archbishop who was "a Reformer before the Reformation," is itself well worth preserving; but even more so the quaint English exposition of the Ten Commandments, Lord's Prayer, Sacraments, Virtues and Sins, which Archbishop Thoresby enjoined his clergy to read diligently to their Parishioners, and which Ralph Thoresby has printed in an Appendix to *Vicaria Leodiensis*, with his own glossary of obsolete words.

To illustrate the book, Mr. Boulter's maps and Francis Place's "South Prospect of the Parish Church" were reprinted from the plates originally engraved for the *Ducatus*; in aid of which there are the two new plates referred to in the Publisher's letters. The one is a representation of Archbishop Thoresby from one of the windows at York Minster; the other, an elevation of the yet unfinished Trinity Church. This

latter plate is dedicated to Lady Elizabeth Hastings, whose arms are on a lozenge at the foot; and an account of her munificent donation, with the consequent erection of a third Church in Leeds, forms a detached "Conclusion" wherewith Thoresby completed his *Vicaria Leodiensis*.

Neither the Author, nor the Archbishop to whom the book was dedicated, lived to see the Church finished. It was consecrated by Archbishop Blackburn, successor of Sir William Dawes in the See of York, on the 27th of August 1727, the fifth anniversary of the laying of the foundation stone. Sir William had died at his London House in Suffolk Street, on the 30th of April 1724, at the age of fifty-three. He was interred, with his wife, at Catharine's Hall, Cambridge, not in the Minster at York. A Life of him is prefixed to his works, chiefly sermons, published in 1733. The baronetcy expired on the death of his grandson, without issue, in 1741; but an only sister of the last Baronet married into the family of Lascelles, now Earls of Harewood. Archbishop Dawes's death is not mentioned in the remains of Thoresby's Diary; but in the July following he visited the new Baronet, the Archbishop's son, "Sir D'Arcy Dawes, and Sir William Milner, with the two ladies, at the good Alderman's."

## ADDITIONAL NOTE.

*"Its contents were to have been included in that Historical part of the Ducatus Leodiensis repeatedly foretold in the Topographical."*—Page 370.

Thoresby commenced this Historical Part, and what he wrote has been printed with his Memoir in the *Biographia Britannica*. He says:—

"Though my design be chiefly to collect the memoirs of persons eminent for learning and piety, beneficence and valour, who have adorned these Northern parts in later ages, wherein we have the advantage of more certain and express authorities, yet I shall endeavour to give a view of the state thereof during the darker and more remote ages of the Britons and Romans, together with the Saxons, Danes and Normans, only resolving to be more short where positive authorities cannot be had, as none are to be expected in parochial affairs during the first epochs."

Accordingly he began with an introductory account of the County of York and the North generally, and accomplished as much as extended into the earlier part of Saxon times.\* In doing this he reproduced much of what is given in his Topography, relating to Roman Roads in the country about Leeds.

Had he proceeded with it, we should have had, to a great extent, a Biographical History of Leeds, much in the way that his *Vicaria Leodiensis* is composed of the Lives of its Vicars. And there are indications in the *Ducatus* itself, and in the Diary, of the memoirs that would have been introduced, in addition to those given in the *Vicaria*.

\* "All day consulting Authors about the ancient Kings of Northumberland, in reference to the History of Leeds, in Manuscript Memoirs."—Diary, 8 April 1695.

“Of some Things extraordinary in Sir *John Stanhope* and his Lady; *Robert Dyneley*, Sen<sup>r</sup>, Esq., (who married his daughter); and Dr. *Walker* of *Londonderry*, more hereafter,” says the *Ducatus*. The particular memoirs of the *Fairelough* family, who succeeded to the Leeds estate of the *Portingtons*, were to be inserted in their respective generations. Edward, Lord Clinton’s (afterwards Earl of Lincoln), were to appear, by reason of his ownership of the Manor of Chapel-Allerton early in the reign of Queen Elizabeth; and Sir John Cutler’s, (his initials “J. C.” being inscribed on “the *Meer-Stones* upon *Blackmoor*”) were to display him as a Benefactor, despite Pope. John Smith, Esq., owner of Roids, Justice of the Peace, and “the most considerable dealer in Wooll that was ever known in these parts of England,” was to be remembered, “being also a Benefactor;” and so was Henry Layton of Rawdon, and his writings. The memoirs of Mr. Kirk of Cookridge, his ingenuity and his writings, are promised in the Diary; where we are also told that Thoresby had written those of Bishop Best and Bishop Guest, both Eboracenses and learned men.

Beside all these there would have been Maurice Paganel’s Charter of the year 1207, assuring certain rights and privileges to his Leeds Burgesses, which Thoresby transcribed from the ancient Manuscript lent to him by Justice Stanhope, of Eccleshill, and which has since been printed by Dr. Whitaker; the history of Kirkstall Abbey and its Founders, “with Memoirs of Benefactors and Authors, as *Hugh de Kirkstall* before, and Abp. *Cranmer* after, the Dissolution of the Monastery;” and much about John Harrison and the times of the Great Rebellion. Thoresby also promised memoirs of Philip, Lord Wharton, familiar by his annual donation of Bibles to school children.

## The Last Days of Ralph Thoresby.

HIS HEALTH—SICKNESS IN LEEDS—FUNERALS—THE VICAR AND DR. BROOKE—  
FINAL VISIT TO LEDSTON HALL—READING AND OTHER ENGAGEMENTS—  
KENNET, BISHOP OF PETERBOROUGH—END OF THORESBY'S DIARY—HIS  
DEATH—HIS CHARACTER.

THE failure in Thoresby's health when his last publication issued from the press was but too premonitory, and the concluding passages of his Diary for 1723 show that his indisposition continued, with some variation, to the end of that year:—

"20 December. Read Whitby; then with the other trustees distributing great-grandfather's dole till eleven;\* at prayers, and after as my strength would permit."

"21. Not able to assist them in that charitable work, but got to the funeral of a neighbour, Thomas Henderson. Lord prepare me to follow."

"22. Die Dom. Read a little, but was presently forced to lie down again, and was not able to get to church either end of the day; read Dean Hare's two loyal sermons sent me this morning by Alderman Rooke."

"23. After a bad night, read Whitby; then correcting errata in the Vicaria Leod., not being able to get to church, which took up all the day."

\* The bequest of Josiah Jenkinson, the great-grandfather of Mrs. Thoresby.—Vol. I, page 243.

"24. Forenoon, entirely upon the bed; made a poor shift to kneel at family prayer, but forced to offer up my private supplications upon my weary bed; afternoon, rather better though confined to my chamber."

"27. Read Whitby; then to wait of Sir William Milner with my Vicaria Leod. for the Archbishop of York, and received a kind letter from the Bishop of London on that account.\* Mr. Glover, Vicar of Knaresborough, preached the commemoration sermon at St. John's, from that of the Apostle, "Faith without works is dead;" after dinner, read and writ till three; at prayers."

"31. Read and writ till eleven; at church; dined with relations at Cousin Nicholson's, and was after with the excellent Bishop of Man, at Cousin Wilson's, but stayed little, being indisposed."

Yet on New Year's Day 1724, he "dined with the Bishop, Sir William Milner, and other good company at Cousin Wilson's," and subsequent entries indicate an improved state of health for several succeeding months; notwithstanding that he describes the early part of the year as "a sickly season," during which, on the last Sunday in March, there were "fifty within three prayed for," and his record of funerals is numerous. There were "three or four" on the afternoon of the said Sunday; there had been three on one day about a fortnight before, and,—

"13 Feb. At church, when Lieut. Filmer was buried with great pomp; an ingenious gentleman, some of whose works are published, in poetry: called to inquire after some poor sick persons that are prayed for."

Subsequently, on the evening of the 7th of April, Thoresby attended the funeral of Mr. Ralph Spencer, a merchant, and

\* These presentation copies were doubtless from the four mentioned in the letter of the Publisher, "better than ordinary bound," at three times the cost of the others in calf. A third, as we learn from this letter, was given to Mr. Boulter, and probably the fourth was reserved by Thoresby for himself.



one of a family of some standing in Leeds, whose pedigree and coat of arms are given in the *Ducatus*.\* After prayers on the following evening "was a mournful funeral of Sam. Simpson's wife; one child was baptized, another buried with her, and at least six children followed with the father." Evening funerals seem at this time to have been the custom; and on Monday the 11th of May, Thoresby writes,—

"Morning, read Burkitt; writ till eleven; at church; and after dinner, till about three, at Alderman Rooke's. This day was a considerable eclipse of the sun (though not so great here as that nine years ago), which I beheld at Cousin Cookson's with Mr. Paley. Afterwards the Vicar preached well at the funeral of Widow Noble, from Ps. xxvii, 13."

But the most curious of these notices was on the 20th of April:—

"Read and wrote till eleven; at church; and after, till three, had female relations from town, and till evening prayers, when James Braithwaite of G. W. [probably Great Woodhouse] was buried; Mr. Day preached well from 'Remember the days of darkness, for they shall be many.' Memorandum. There were two graves made for him; one at the New Church, but, upon denial of the pulpit, another at the old, where he was buried."

The amity which had subsisted between the Vicar and the Minister at the New Church was at this time broken, to the regret of Thoresby,—

"17 June. Visited by Dr. Brooke, desirous of assistance about the lecture at St. John's, but I rather wish a sincere concord betwixt the Vicar and him."

And, peace-maker to the last, one of the entries which bring Thoresby's Diary to its close, records his visiting Dr. Brooke, with "endeavour to prevent a breach with the Vicar." But it is now evident that on Sundays, as well as week-days, he had become a regular attendant at the Old Church; for

\* Son of the Ralph Spencer mentioned in Vol. I, page 60.

the sermons which he notices in 1724 seem to have been preached there. One of them, on Sunday the 16th of February, was by the Vicar from "Do good unto all men," when he "preached suitably to the occasion (the brief for the burning of Wetherby)." On another Sunday, Mr. Kennet, Vicar of Bradford, preached twice, and both times, says Thoresby, "preached well."

Once more Thoresby visited Lady Elizabeth Hastings, it was for the last time:—

"26 June. Read not much, being hasted by the coachman that the good Lady Betty Hastings had ordered to conduct me and good old Mrs. Bainbridge (the minister's widow)\* to Ledstone Hall, where we were most kindly received by her Ladyship and the Ladies Katherine and Margaret, her sisters, and indeed all that virtuous family, where we had prayers constantly four times a day: here I stayed with great satisfaction till the Saturday after, and found myself much better in health by that excellent air and most agreeable conversation; and was daily entertained by my lady with excellent sermons, as the Bishop of London's and others, and one concerning the benefit of afflictions, and that we ought to rejoice in them; but this I thought not so proper for me, because adapted chiefly for such as suffer for religion, whereas mine are the produce of my sins; yet in this I have often found cause of joy, and do sincerely bless a Kind Providence that this distemper has, I hope, weaned me in some measure from the World, and prepared me in some degree for the great change that is approaching; and I am very sensible of, and sincerely thankful for the mercies intermixed, that though it be a distemper I never expect (or scarce desire) to be free from, yet blessed be my merciful God, there is very little pain, but a kind as well as constant memento of mortality: I had also the agreeable employ of transcribing some original deeds relating to benefactions, as my Lady's and Mr. Boulter's, for

\* Before September came, the Vicar of Leeds "preached a funeral sermon for good old Mrs. Bainbridge, to whom he gave a large and deserved commendation."

the augmentation of the Vicarage of Harwood, and this incomparable lady's for Ledsham, and two long skins of parchment, with some ingenious and pious hymns, and an admirable letter (supposed to be Mrs. Rowe's). I also transcribed a long funeral sermon for the Hon. Mr. Vane, from Eccles. xii, 1, thinking it proper for my dear son Richard, and, being only in manuscript, not to be had elsewhere."

"4 July. After eight days agreeable entertainment with manuscripts and other papers at Ledston Hall, I took leave of the excellent lady and good family, and returned safe to Leeds, and found my family well: the harness broke, but the horse and charioteer performed well. There had been a fire at Mr. T.'s the confectioner's, that burned down three rooms, but was suppressed by the engine, without farther damage."

Thoresby might, as he says he did, find benefit from change of air, and scene, and company while at Ledston; but whatsoever relaxation he experienced in some respects, it is clear that he gave scant rest to his brain. At home and from home, reading and writing employed the leisure he had, from the commencement of the year until he finally broke down. Beside readings in Whitby and Burkitt, and Mr. Lucas's manuscript, already mentioned, he "finished the fourteen Epistles of St. Paul, according to the order of time in which they were writ, and not as placed in the Bible;" he "concluded St. Paul's description of his own Religion, by Dr. Synge, Archbishop of Tuam;" he "concluded the Life of Monsieur Fenelon, Archbishop of Cambray, a very pious and devout prelate, though in communion with the Church of Rome, yet censured by her;" and he "finished the perusal of Dean Barwick's Life, wherein are many curious remarks, though some perhaps too unkind against good Bishop Brownrigg for pusillanimity, as well as against Bishop Gauden and Dr. Walker." So much head-work can hardly have been good for him, subject to the distemper of which he speaks, with tendency

to pain at the back part of the head; but apparently he pursued his avocations with much less disturbance than he had experienced during the later months of the previous year. He took part with his brother Lords of the Manor in manorial business; he went to "Cousin W.'s about Sir Griffith Boynton's affair for my Lady's arms, and those of the Sykes's;" and having, by request, written "for above 600 Bibles and other practical books of Divinity, to be given by charitable persons to the poor," he spent a whole day, save his "usual reading and attendance at church," in sorting the large box of books that was sent to him accordingly.

On the 13th of July 1724, he writes,—

"Read Burkitt, till sent for by Alderman Rooke, who kindly accommodated me with his chariot to Wakefield, where very courteously received by the Bishop of Peterborough, from whom I received a letter of thanks last night; had intelligence of some public affairs, and returned home safe, though one of the four mares was too frolicsome, that once endangered us."

Ten days afterward, Bishop Kennet again visited Leeds from Wakefield, and Thoresby dined with him at Alderman Rooke's. On the 27th of July, Thoresby notes in his Diary,—  
"Wrote to the Bishop of Peterborough." The original letter is preserved in the British Museum, in a volume of miscellaneous letters in Bishop Kennet's collections,\* but it has not hitherto been published. Whether or not the last letter which Thoresby ever wrote, it is the last of his letters of which we have any mention, and for this alone it has interest, over and above that of its contents:—

"My Lord,

"I am ashamed that I never remembered to transcribe the Addenda to the Vicaria which the printer disingenuously refused to publish, that your Lordship may perceive some further benefactions. I beg the return of the papers last remitted,

\* Lansdowne M.S.S., 1038.

because I have no copy, nor can I decently ask my Lady Betty to lend me a second time the originals, which might be hazarded in the carriage; but I will transcribe for your Lordship the [arrangements ?] betwixt her Ladyship and Mr. Boulter verbatim for the augmentation of the Vicarage of Harewood. The pref<sup>t</sup> [preferment] may be of no use to your Lordship, but may be to me who have a son at Cambridge. That of Ledsham will be very tedious for one that writes poorly as well as ill. If your Lordship please to mark in the margin what will be most for your purposes, I will not fail to do what is in the power of

“Your Lordship’s most humble Servant,

“RALPH THORESBY.”

“Leeds, 27 July 1724.”

“My service to my Lady, and to Captain Burton and his spouse.”

It appears from this postscript that Bishop Kennet was still at Wakefield.

There is not anything in the letter to indicate worse health than usual, nor in the concluding entries of Thoresby’s Diary:—

“3 September. Much of this day showing the Museum, there being much company because of the races at Chapel-town; after evening prayers, rejoiced with my dear son Thoresby from Hertfordshire.”

“6. Die Dom. My son Thoresby preached very well from I John iii, 4; afternoon a stranger, from Sheffield, preached very zealously, yet I was too little affected.”

The next entry, the last but one, is on the 10th, and it introduces, for the first time, a name which seems to link Thoresby’s age with our own, namely, that of the Rector of Epworth, father of John Wesley:—

“Forenoon, as usually; after, visited by the noted poet, Mr. Wesley; then at Alderman Rooke’s.”

The last entry of all once more records his eldest son’s preaching in the Parish Church of his native town, the history of which Thoresby had so laboured to preserve:—

"13 Sep<sup>r</sup> Die Dom. Mr. Day preached well from Ps. xxxiii, 13; afternoon, my son Thoresby preached excellently from 'Be ye angry, but sin not;' but going immediately to visit Cousin Kirshaw, and after, staying supper at Dr. Brooke's, noted not the heads."

In the following October, as related in the *Biographia Britannica*, Thoresby "was struck with a violent palsy, from which stroke, however, he so far recovered as to speak intelligibly, and walk with help." His last Will and Testament, now in the office at York, is dated on the 10th of that month; and on that very date in 1725 he was seized anew, and never rallied. The *Biographia* continues:—

"The following year he was attacked again with the same distemper, on the 10th of the same month, under which, after languishing six days, he departed this life October 16, 1725, in the sixty-eighth year of his age. His corpse was interred among his ancestors in the chancel of St. Peter's [the Parish] church of Leeds."

In the Register of burials there is the record,—“19 Oct. 1725. Mr. Ralph Thoresby, Kirk<sup>t</sup>,” the name being distinguished, as in his father's case, by the exceptional prefix, “Mr.”\* The vault, says Dr. Whitaker, was close to the column which separated the Chancel from the north Transept of the Old Church; and commenting upon the absence of any monument to him who had done so much to perpetuate memorials of Leeds and its people, Whitaker wrote a Latin inscription for a proposed one. But another in English was inscribed, when, on the re-building of the Church, 1838-41, a mural tablet to Thoresby was at length raised. The canopy of a Mediæval Piscina was appropriated to it; but care was not taken to mark, in the new pavement, the portion that covers the tomb of the Thoresbys.

\* Vol. I, page 71.

The character of Ralph Thoresby is so manifested by his writings, quoted at large in the foregoing pages, that little remains to be said concerning it. The combination of inherent simplicity with sterling worth, of unaffected piety with consistency of life, for he was rectitude itself in his dealings; a courageous, yet quiet and unostentatious adherence to the course which he believed to be right, unyielding to persuasion and careless of ridicule; and amiability, free from any servile adulation, procured for him the respect, and even affectionate esteem, of equals and superiors in the social scale. This it is which explains why one of patient, plodding industry in place of great intellectual power; of moderate education, not high scholastic attainments; neither favoured by noble birth, by wealth, nor aided by the quality, such as it is, of self-assertion, whereby many have succeeded in pushing themselves forward beyond their deserts, should be found upon the terms he was with those of high rank and position in Church and State, with University dignitaries, and celebrities in the literature of the time. The most prominent of his acquirements was his undoubted acquaintance with ancient and British coinage; and one extraneous advantage he possessed in his extensive museum of coins, antiquities and manuscripts, a most remarkable local collection which assuredly contributed to the extension of his repute.

One well-known contemporary, John Dunton, writes in his "Whipping Post":—

"Mr. Ralph Thoresby, of Leeds, Fellow of the Royal Society, is a very ingenious, sober gentleman and industrious Antiquary, who hath a Collection of Natural and Artificial Rarities of many years standing; and is still as diligent as ever to make additions thereunto. He is also a great preserver and ingrosser of Manuscripts of all sorts. He is kind and respective to his friends, and never better pleased than when they can present him with some piece of antiquity or valuable manuscript."

In Thomas Hearne's Diary there is the following:—

"18 May 1712. Yesterday I dined at Mr. Nevill's chamber, University College, with Dr. John Richardson, M.D., formerly Gentleman Commoner of that college; which Dr. Richardson is now of Yorkshire. He took his degree beyond sea, I think at Leyden. He is an ingenious man, and well versed in antiquities. He tells me Mr. Thoresby, of Leeds, understands very little or nothing of Latin, and that a great many of his Curiosities once belonged to General Fairfax. He adds that Mr. Thoresby insists too much upon little niceties. This Mr. Thoresby is now printing the Antiquities of Leeds, and of some of the adjacent parts."

That Thoresby's classical attainments were not of the highest order is scarcely to be questioned; and a classical scholar might think lightly of his knowledge of Latin. But that the statement of his knowing "very little or nothing of Latin" is not to be taken too literally, we have evidence in his writings; and Hearne himself appears thus to have considered, as he afterward suggested to Thoresby that the Museum Catalogue would have been more useful if published in Latin.

Thomas Wilson says in his M.S. Historical Register that "Thoresby was greatly lamented by the learned World in general;" and a note in the *Biographia Britannica* tells us that upon his death a letter was written to the Rev. Henry Robinson by Mr. Newman, Secretary to the Christian Knowledge Society, "lamenting the loss of so serviceable a correspondent."

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## Will and Descendants.

ALTHOUGH made but a year before his death, and a codicil added less than a month before, on the 25th of September 1725, it is curious that when the Will of him who was so careful a preserver of manuscripts came to be proved, it had been so insecurely placed that a few important lines were "supposed to be eaten by some vermin." On the 14th of February 1725-6, one of the witnesses, John Lucas, signed an attestation that the words italicised in the subjoined extract had been inserted in the Will,—

"As I perfectly well remember, and as it doth yet appear by the copy drawn by Richard Wilson, Esq., from which I transcribed the said Will."

The Will commences :—

"In the name of God, Amen. I Ralph Thoresby of Leeds in the County of York, Gent., being infirm in body but of a sound and disposing mind and memory, blessed be God, do make this my last Will and Testament in manner following. I give and bequeath to my son Ralph Thoresby, Clerk, all my Library and collections of Manuscripts maps prints Coins antiquities and Curiosities natural and artificial of what nature or kind soever, and other goods and chattels in my Museum and Repository or either of them."

The Testator next bequeaths to his younger son, Richard, an Annuity of Forty Pounds for two years, to be paid Quarterly; and within three months after the determination of this Annuity the sum of One Hundred Pounds. A further sum of Twenty

Five Pounds was also to be paid to him when he should take the degree of M.A. at either Oxford or Cambridge. Then follows the clause,—

“And I give and bequeath to my dearly beloved wife the sum of twenty pounds all the residue of my real and personal estates of what nature or kind soever.”

This is not very clearly expressed, but evidently there was intended an absolute bequest of Twenty Pounds, and a Life Interest in the residue; for it is immediately followed by a devise upon Trust to his son Ralph and Richard Wilson, Esq. Out of personal estate, and by sale or mortgage of real estate and rents thereof, they were to pay the Testator's debts, funeral expenses, which, said he, “I would have to be moderate,” annuities and legacies. And then comes the clause eaten into:—

“And after the payment of my said debts, funeral expenses bequeathed annuity *and legacies I give devise and bequeath to my said son Richard Thoresby and his heirs my messuages and tenements with the appurtenances situate in the lower end of Kirkgate*, and now or late in the several occupations of William Lockwood and John Smith, or their assigns, or so much as shall remain unsold or undisposed of. To my son-in-law John Wood, Gent., and his heirs I give and devise all those my fee farm or other rents issuing or payable out of certain tenements in or near Newcastle-upon-Tyne.”

Twenty Pounds, with the remaining real estate not devised to Richard Thoresby and John Wood, and the residue of the personalty after payment of all debts, &c., are given to Ralph Thoresby, appointed sole executor, after which there is a very sensible provision:—

“And I recommend to my said children and legatees that if any differences shall arise amongst them touching my real or personal estate or any part or parts thereof, or touching the constructions of this my Will, that the same be referred

to the determination of the said Richard Wilson, and that they shall and do abide thereby."

The Will was witnessed by Jos: Allanson, Chris: Hebblethwaite and John Lucas. As before mentioned, it was dated 10 October 1724 (in the 11th George); and the Codicil added near a twelvemonth afterward restricts the £40 annuity to Richard Thoresby to one year in place of two,—

"It being designed for his maintenance for two years from that date, he having now been maintained one year, my will and mind is that the said annuity be restrained to one year and no more from the date of this present."

The Widow, Anna Thoresby, survived her husband above sixteen years, continuing at his house in Kirkgate; but in December 1737 she joined with her elder son and his Co-Trustee, Richard Wilson, in selling the estate to Richard Nipe, Cabinet-maker, tenant of another dwelling-house erected upon it.\* She died on the 1st of May 1742, and was buried in the Thoresby vault in the Parish Church of Leeds.

The friendship of the Bishops of London and Peterborough, Gibson and Kennet, for Thoresby, survived his death and was extended to his sons. On the death of Prebendary John Millington, D.D., Rector of Stoke-Newington, in April 1728, Gibson presented that Rectory to the Rev. Ralph Thoresby, Vicar of Rickmansworth; and he gave another London Rectory,

\* For this information concerning Thoresby's Kirkgate estate, the writer is indebted to Major R. W. Moore, of Leeds, into whose possession the estate came. Nipe quickly re-sold it to Maurice Freeman, a peruke maker, whose son sold it again in 1754 to Benjamin Thomas, a woolstapler. In another two years, it became the property of Richard Wilson, Esq.; and there were numerous subsequent changes before it passed into the hands of its present owners. The house in which Thoresby lived remained, with some alteration, but retaining its massive brick chimney-stack, covering 20 square yards, and an upper room with curiously vaulted plaster ceiling, until 1878, when it was rebuilt. It had been intended to preserve the ceiling mentioned, but a blundering labourer let down the whole fabric at some risk to his fellow workmen.

St. Catharine Coleman in Fenchurch Street, to the younger son Richard, a graduate of Catharine Hall, Cambridge. That Kennet also was ready with his good offices is proved by the following letter (Lansdowne M.S.S. 1038), written to him by the new Rector of Stoke-Newington soon after his appointment:—

“My Lord,

“I received [the next words have been cut out] Letter and Testimony, for which my Brother joins with me in due and hearty thanks to your Lordship. We doubt not but it will answer the intended purpose, and the reason of your knowing so little of my Brother was his having to take out a license until he was ordained Priest, that he might not have had occasion for a second. And the only cause why he did not offer himself as a Candidate for Priest’s Orders in Lent last to your Lordship, was his hearing and accepting of his present, which is a better, Curacy at Lady Day following.

“I am, my Lord, with a grateful sense of this kindness,

“Y<sup>r</sup> Lordship’s

“Most humble Serv<sup>t</sup> and Son,

“RALPH THORESBY.”

“Stoke-Newington,

“Sept: 12, 1728.”

According to the *Biographia Britannica*, both the brothers did credit to the Bishop who selected them for preferment:—  
“They are both worthy clergymen, and well respected in their several parishes.”

One sermon of the Rev. Ralph Thoresby’s has been published, with a somewhat notable Title-Page: \*—

\* From a copy in Vol. 6 of “Sermons collected by Letsome.” King’s Lib., Brit. Museum. “Dr. Bray’s Associates,” mentioned in the Title-Page, is a name given in 1733 to the Trustees of an endowment for the instruction of Negro Slaves in America. Anderson’s *Hist. of the Colonial Church*.

*"The Expediency and Advantage of doing Good*

Represented in a

Sermon

Preached before the

Honourable Trustees

For establishing the

Colony of Georgia in America,

and the

Associates

of the

Late Reverend Dr. Bray,

on their

Anniversary Meeting

March 17, 1747-8.

In the

Parish Church of St. Margaret, Westminster.

---

By Ralph Thoresby, A.M.

Rector of Stoke-Newington in Middlesex.

---

Publish'd at the Desire of the Trustees and Associates.

---

To which is annex'd

A Letter of Samuel Loyd, Esq. ;

concerning the nature and goodness of the Georgia Silk.

---

London :

Printed for W. Meadows, next St. John's Coffee-House in

Cornhill

MDCCXLVIII.

[Price 6d.]”

Thoresby's eldest son, it appears, afterward took the Degree of Doctor of Divinity. In the obituary of a periodical published by Benjamin Martin under the Title of "Miscellaneous Correspondence," &c., for May 1763, his death in the previous month is thus recorded,—“The Rev. Dr. Thoresby, 35 years Rector of Stoke-Newington.” Nichols, in his “Literary Anecdotes,” says that,—“April 24, 1763, the said Mr. Thoresby died suddenly, of an apoplectic fit, at his house Stoke-Newington, Co. Middlesex.”\*

A letter, signed “B” in the *Gentleman's Magazine* for April 1783, states that he married Rhoda, one of the daughters of Mr. Stafford, a woollen draper in London, who died 31 May 1751, aged 43, and was buried in Stoke-Newington Churchyard, leaving no issue.

It is further said that Richard Thoresby, Rector of St. Catherine Coleman, died between November 1773 and November 1774; and that,—

“He was married, and had issue (as I am informed) two sons and a daughter; both the sons are said to have been in the Black Hole of Calcutta, and one of them to have died.”

Thoresby's married daughter, Grace Wood, had a son, who was called Ralph; but he died without issue in 1781, and the lineal Pedigree of Ralph Thoresby the Topographer, in so far as known, came to a speedy end.

\* Vol. VIII, page 465.

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## “Musæum Thoresbyanum.”

THE proportions to which this collection had attained at the time when Thoresby drew up a catalogue of its contents for publication with his *Ducatus Leodiensis* were even then remarkable, more especially when we consider it as the work of one holding no higher position than he did, a resident in a provincial town chiefly noted for its cloth trade, and whose circumstances were far removed from affluence. And this Catalogue, says Thomas Wilson in his M.S. Historical Register, “was vastly augmented before his death, sent to him from all parts;” a statement which is borne out by passages in Thoresby’s Diary and Correspondence during the later years of his life. The more we take into consideration its value to Leeds, had this collection been preserved intact until now, the greater our regret for its dispersion. There can scarcely be a doubt, that when Thoresby bequeathed it entire to his eldest son he contemplated its preservation in some way; or that many of the donors imagined it a repository of some permanence, not that they were contributing only to the enrichment of an individual.

This view of the matter has direct support in the concluding paragraph of that very remarkable section of Thoresby’s Catalogue entitled “Humane Rarities:”—

“But the most noted of all the Humane Curiosities, is the *Hand* and *Arm* cut off at the Elbow, positively asserted to be that of the Marquis of *Montrose*, whose quarters were disposed of to several cities of *Scotland*, whence this was brought. It

hath never been interred, has a severe Wound in the Wrist, and seems really to have been the very Hand that wrote the famous Epitaph [*Great, Good, and Just,*] for K. *Charles 1st.* in whose cause he suffered. Dr. *Pickering* would not part with it till the Descent into *Spain*; when dreading it should be lost in his Absence, he presented it to this Repository, where it has more than once had the same honour that is paid to the greatest Ecclesiastical Prince in the World."

Perhaps the familiarity of Thoresby's son with his father's museum induced an under-estimate of its value, while removal to another, and for him a higher sphere of life, lessened his interest in his native town. Be this as it might, having sold the estate, the Rev. Ralph Thoresby, as Wilson says in his *West-Riding Pedigrees*, "removed his Father's Library and Cabinet of Coins to Newington;" adding,—“I and Mr. Jno. Swale purchased the remainder of the curiosities, and sold part of them again to Dr. Burton.” And included in Wilson's purchase were the original portraits of the second and the third Lord Fairfax, which John Thoresby had purchased with the Fairfax collection of coins.

The Rector of Stoke Newington retained possession of the Coins and Manuscripts until his death; but in the following year, 1764, they were brought to the hammer. The sale catalogue of twenty pages has this Title-page:—

“Musæum Thoresbyanum,

A

Catalogue

of the genuine and valuable

Collection

of that well known Antiquarian the late

Ralph Thoresby, Gent. F.R.S.

Author of *Ducatus Leodiensis*.

Consisting of

Roman, British, Runic, Saxon and English Coins and Medals in Gold, Silver, &c. Manuscripts, Curiosities, Autographs, antient



Deeds, original Letters and Signs Manual of British and foreign Kings and Queens, Cromwell the Protector and his son Richard, Principal Nobility and eminent Persons for Two Centuries past.

All which will be

Sold by Auction,

By *Whiston Bristow*, Sworn Broker,

At the Exhibition Room, *Spring Gardens, Charing Cross*,

On Monday March 5th, and the Two following Days, beginning punctually at 12 o'Clock.

To be viewed on *Thursday March 1st*, and the following Days, *Sunday* excepted.

Catalogues to be had *gratis* at the Place of Sale and of W. BRISTOW [Publisher of the *Public Ledger*] *St. Paul's Church yard*, who sells by Commission, Estates, Medals, Books, Pictures, Curiosities, Stocks in Trade, and Houshold Furniture.\*

In the first day's sale were a hundred and eighteen lots of coins, ten of them gold, English, Roman and Foreign; and sixty seven Roman, of which five lots were silver. Three more lots concluded the sale:—"A Cabinet;" "A parcel of Boards, with cells for Coins;" and, "Mr. Thoresby's Ducatus Leodiensis, full of Manuscript additions by the Author."

In the second day's sale there were eight lots of pewter and lead medals; five of British and other coins; twenty six Saxon; fifty four Coins from the Norman Conquest described at page 349 of the *Ducatus*; and eighteen lots of Scotch coins.

The third day's sale consisted of manuscripts, curiosities, original letters, autographs, &c., in ninety lots, which included,—

"Witchcraft in Family of E. Fairfax at Leeds; of N. Starkie, Esq., in Lancashire; Behaviour of John Bunyan, &c."

"Treatise of Sovereignty of Scotland in Latin."†

"Nine Volumes containing the Names of all such Persons as have come from beyond the Seas, as also of the Places

\* From a copy in the King's Library, Brit. Museum, separately bound, having blank leaves at the beginning and end.

† Vol. I, page 181.

from whence they came, and where they intend to lodge, together with their Business, taken by Order of the Parliament, 1655."

"A volume containing 152 Tracts, chiefly relating to King *James* and King *Charles* 1st., including a Waggish Description of *Scotland*." \*

"Twelve Volumes of curious Tracts of the opulent and flourishing Town of *Leeds* in *Yorkshire*, relating to its Customs, Privileges, and extensive Manufactory in the Cloth Trade."

"Collection of Letters on Vellum, painted and gilt, *vide* D. L. No. 12, p. 515.—*Scala Mundi*, and Catalogue of Popes on Vellum, *vide* D. L. No. 13, p. 516."

"The House of *Parliament* curiously enamelled upon Gold, &c. . . It was a present from Parliament to the General [Fairfax], and was purchased by Mr. *Thoresby's* Father with his noble Collection of Medals. *Materiam superabat opus*. Vide D. L. p. 495."

"A box containing a great number of letters by eminent Persons, among whom are Locke, Boyle, Prior, Steele, Flamstead, Halley, Woodward, Sir *H. Sloane*, Sir *Christopher Wren*, *Brown Willis*, *Warburton*, and many others."

Nichol states in his "Literary Anecdotes" that Thoresby's Library, much enlarged by his son, the Rector of Stoke-Newington, was also sold in 1764 by the well known bookseller, Thomas Payne, at the Mews Gate; and thus the entire collection, which had been the work of a lifetime, and even of more than one, John Thoresby having laid the foundation, was dispersed.

Naturally, the questions arise,—Who were the buyers, and what has become of their purchases? In part they may be answered, and in part only.

\* Ante, page 75.

Nichol has published a letter relating to Bristow's sale,\* written by the Rev. Cox Macro, D.D., a collector of early printed books, original letters and autographs, to Dr. Andrew Coltee Ducarel, Librarian of the Lambeth Palace Library, Historian of the Palace and Parish, and author of a 4to volume published in 1757, entitled,—“A series of above 200 Anglo-Gallic, or Norman and Aquitaine coins of the ancient Kings of England.” And in a note Nichol says,—

“From this collection [Thoresby's] more than Six Hundred Original Letters of Eminent Persons were purchased jointly by Dr. Ducarel and Mr. Astle, who afterward divided them. Those which came to the Doctor's share I bought at his sale, and still possess.”

That was written in 1815. Astle, F.R.S. and F.S.A., was one of the Curators of the British Museum, and Keeper of the Records in the Tower of London.

In short, Thoresby's manuscripts, as well as his coins and books, became dispersed. To most of those which found their way into the British Museum there has already been reference in the course of these volumes. There is a note by Dr. Birch at the beginning of Vol. I, of the Letters among the Birch M.S.S., saying that he bought them at the sale of the 7th of March 1764.

A portion of the Diary, and the letters published by Mr. Hunter in 1830 and 1832, were then in the extensive collection formed by William Upcott, Librarian at the London Institution; who, as Mr. Hunter relates in his preface, discovered them some years before lying neglected in a garret in the City. Thoresby's Review of his Life was also among the M.S.S. of Mr. Upcott. The remainder of the published Diary was taken from another portion of the original in the Library of Christ's Hospital.

\* Literary Anecdotes, Vol. IX, page 364.

On the sale of Mr. Upcott's Collection, the Diary, Review, and a quantity of the Correspondence were purchased by the late James Crossley, Esq., of Manchester; but when he came to take possession of them, one volume of the Diary, from 14 May 1712 to 26 September 1714, had mysteriously disappeared. Subsequently, in 1848, it was included in the Catalogue of a London Bookseller, and purchased by Mr. Walbran, of Ripon. There is a letter by Mr. Crossley upon the subject in "Notes and Queries," March 1851.

About four years before his death, when shewing to the writer of this Life of Thoresby the original Diary, Review and some other Thoresby M.S.S., Mr. Crossley said it was his intention to publish the entire Review, portions of which only, where the Diary is wanting, Mr. Hunter printed. Mr. Crossley also contemplated publishing, as supplementary to Hunter's two volumes of Correspondence, a large number of unpublished letters which Mr. Hunter had not seen. And had this been done, the publication might have extended to another interesting M.S., mentioned in the following extract from a subsequent letter :—

"I omitted showing you when you were here, three portions of Thoresby's Copy Letter-book—1695-6, 1709-14 and 1723-4. It seems clear from these portions, which have formed part of a book, that Thoresby copied every letter that he wrote. Where can the remaining portions have got to?"

But Mr. Crossley, then in advanced years, did not live to carry out his design. His most interesting and extensive Library of books and manuscripts has been in its turn dispersed; and on the last of a nine days' sale (the second one), 20 June 1885, Messrs. Sotheby among other lots sold, for £67, the following :—

"Lot 3089. THORESBY (Ralph) Letters addressed to Ralph Thoresby, Author of the "Topography of the Town of Leeds,"

comprising a correspondence of over 50 years with some of the most eminent Literary Characters and Nonconformists of the Time; comprising among others Dr. Edmund Gibson, Bishop of London; Dr. Woodward, Roger Gale, Lord Wharton, Bishop Nicholson (many letters), Dr. Obad. Walker, Matt. Henry, Dr. George Hickes, Oliver Heywood (several letters), Rev. John Strype, Hans Sloane, Arch. Sharpe, Dr. Thos. Gale, Thomas Hearne, Ed. Hickerlingill, &c. with Copy Book of his own Letters, also his Diary and his Album, containing signatures of persons who visited his Museum. They are contained in 1 folio volume and several smaller vols. and large quantity of unbound Correspondence. 2 *parcels*."

Lot 3032 in the same sale was another manuscript which has been mentioned in the account of the sale of Thoresby's collection by Bristow:—

"MORE (George) A very rare unpublished M.S. Tract on the possessions of the Starkie Family, containing further information on the subject of the possessions of the Starkie Family than has yet been given, *formerly in the Thoresby Collection, and purchased by Crossley in the Heber sale.*"

Some of the published letters, and others unpublished, are in various private hands. A copy of Bishop Nicolson's "Historical Library" 1696, in which is inscribed,—*"The Learned and Judicious Author's gift to R. Thoresby"* is in the Cheetham Library, Manchester. The Author of a Life of Fuller, Mr. Bailey, states that Stephens's copy of Fuller's Worthies, in the Bodleian Library, contains Ralph Thoresby's autograph, transcripts of Thoresby's notes in his own copy, having the initial "T," and index in Thoresby's writing, besides the printed index. No. 247 in Thoresby's catalogue of 8vo. manuscripts, a relic not only of himself but of his unfortunate "Cousin Susan," curiously figured a few years since in the catalogue of a second-hand bookdealer at Chelsea, thus:—

“Manuscript. ‘The original Diary of the Reverend and very pious Mr. Henry Stubbs, who was above 72 when he wrote it; he died in July 1678, having been above 50 years a Minister.’ Mr. Ralph Thoresby of Leeds who wrote the above also tells us:—‘This was the acceptable present to me of his daughter-in-law, my Cousin, Susannah Stubbs, in whose hand-writing the latter part of the manuscript is.’”\*

The bequest of Richard Gough to the Bodleian Library included a large paper copy of the *Ducatus Leodiensis*, containing a number of M.S. notes, and this record concerning them,—“These M.S.S. additions were transcribed by Mr. Galston from a dirty worn copy, in which the Author had written them.” The notes commence with a number of corrections in the list of subscribers; for instance,—Joseph Hay, of Leeds, is altered to Hey; Richard Hudson, of Pudsey, to Hutton; the Rector of Gelling, to Gilling; after Canon John Potter is written, “now Bishop of Oxford,” and after Samuel Molyneux, Esq., of Dublin, “Secretary to His R. H. George, Prince of Wales.” Beside corrections, there are these additions,—“Historiographer Royal, Thomas Madox,” “Queen’s College Library, Cambridge,” and “Queen’s College Library, Oxford.”

Among the annotations are the following:—

After the list of Mayors at page 266 of the *Ducatus* is written:—“Memorandum. The first who dyed Mayor of Leeds was Ben. Wade, Esq., 1718, and the first Mayoress who died was Mary the wife of Thomas Brearey, Esq., this 28th March 1721.” (Her death is also noted in Thoresby’s Diary of the same date).

To General Fairfax’s Sword Hilt, catalogued on page 474, found at Nun-Appleton and given by Alderman Milner, is added,—“His stirrup, brass and gilded.”

\* As the writer was informed, this passed into the hands of another Manchester Collector of M.S.S., the above-mentioned Mr. Bailey.

The mention of the broad, antique Gold Ring at page 495, supposed to have been Richard, Duke of York's, because found where he was slain near Wakefield Bridge, has this note to it,—“Purchased for my father (at his request) by his friend Mr. Potter of Wakefield, father to the present learned Bishop of Oxford, whose nativity is an honour to that Town.”

On page 498 of the *Ducatus*, is entered the portrait of Matthias Buckinger of Koningsberg, born without hands and feet, the copper plate said to have been engraved by himself. Against this Thoresby has written,—“But he told me himself it was not.” And there is another note which casts some doubt upon the accuracy of a statement on page 621, although written to confirm it. We are there told that Mr. Thomas Bernard, of Leeds, was so brisk that he rid a Hunting when above an Hundred years old. The note to this says,—“As his son Mr. Christopher Barnard of Leedes told me before, and now again, August 1719, before Mr. Sherman and Mr. Lodge, which I mention because his brother says he died before he was an hundred.”

Another annotated large paper copy of the *Ducatus* in the Leeds Library accounts for the residue of *Musæum Thoresbyanum*, by the pen of one of the purchasers, Thomas Wilson. At the commencement is this inscription:—

“This History of Leeds with various additions by Mr. Thos. Wilson and Mr. Lucas of Leeds, late Masters of the Charity School; and the memorable George Bayley, was lent to Mr. Wm. Hey, F.R.S. for his life, and after his decease I Chas. Barnard the Owner of the said Book do give the same to the Circulating Library at Leeds upon condition that the Trustees do not permit the same History to be used in any other place except their great Library Room.”

“Written by his daughter Eliz<sup>h</sup> Barnard at his dictation.”

At the time when Wilson wrote his annotations, he possessed the Sermon in which Vicar Milner's mention of Bede stimulated Thoresby's early inclination to the study of Antiquities; a manuscript from Mr. Vavasour, with Bishop Tonstal's description of the country around Haslewood to King Henry the Eighth; the original manuscript catalogue of Thoresby's Coins, and the Archbishop of York's Remarks upon the English portion of them; all which are referred to in Thoresby's Preface.

Most of the "Ancient Writings" catalogued at page 552 also came into his hands, when Swale and he made their purchase;\* but the Kirkstall Abbey Deeds of Gift, which Thoresby designed for use in his unexecuted "Historical Part," became Dr. Rawlinson's, having been printed by Stevens in his *Monasticon Anglicanum*.

After the concluding paragraph of the chapter headed "Ancient Writings," which speaks of more recent writs, &c., of the time of Charles 1st, the Inter-regnum and Charles 2nd., there is the note,—“Most of these were rotten and torn to pieces.”

The collection of various editions of the Bible, which are enumerated and described in pages 501 to 514 of Thoresby's Catalogue, “were all sent with the coins and M.S.S. to his son, about 1726,” and the Autographs, pages 548 to 552, in 1743; from which it appears the latter had been left with Mrs. Thoresby until her death. Richard Wilson, Esq., Recorder of Leeds, had in 1764 (which is the year of the sale), the English Version of Kirkby's Inquest catalogued at page 517; and there passed also into his possession the original Rental,

\* To this information is appended,—“Apl. 5, 1722. Mr. Brooke, Rector of High Hoyland, gave Mr. Thoresby a transcript from Domesday Book containing 4 sheets, being an account of Ildebert Lacy's estate in Yorkshire. Copies of Domesday Book for the whole County of York were copied by T. Wilson for Dr. Burton and Dr. Richardson, and another copy his son has, and gave another to R<sup>d</sup> Wilson, Esq., Recorder of Leeds, and sold one to Dr. Barnard.”



or *Computus*, of the Archbishop of York, from Michaelmas in the last year of Queen Elizabeth to the following in the first year of King James, given to Thoresby by a Mr. Francis Taylor, who had married the great-grand-daughter of the then Archbishop (Hutton); the History of the surprise of Pontefract Castle, &c., a manuscript written by the Governor's son, Castillion Morris, Town-Clerk of Leeds, and presented to Thoresby by him; the Commissions of James 2nd and Charles 1st, 1619 to 1660, for inquiry into Gifts to Charitable Uses, with the returns relating to Leeds, and extracts from the Book of Pious Uses, written and presented by Bryan Dixon;\* and Thoresby's transcript from the Hopkinson Pedigrees.

The hand and arm of the loyal but ill-fated Marquis of Montrose, so treasured by its former owner, and so revered by visitors to the Museum in which it had been deposited for secure preservation, were transferred to Dr. Burton with other "Humane Rarities." The curiosities in Natural History which immediately succeed these in the catalogue, were shared between him and the rubbish heap as follows:—

"*Viviporous Quadrupedes that are Bisiduous.*" Pages 432-3.

"All these things were thrown away to clear the room."

"*Of Balls or Stones taken out of Animals.*" Pages 433-4.

A round hairy ball from the stomach of a calf was sent to Dr. Burton. The rest,—“All these, being spoiled, were thrown on the Dunghill.”

"*Oviporous Quadrupedes.*" Page 434.

A large Sea-Tortoise brought from the Isle of Ascension by Dr. Midgley of Leeds, and presented by him to Thoresby, and nearly Ten Feet in circumference, became Dr. Burton's. As to the rest,—“All these thrown away.”

"Serpents." page 435. "These thrown away."

\* See Vol. I, page 104.

"Birds. *First of Land-Fowls.*" Pages 435-6.

A Bird of Paradise from Java, by Dr. Midgley, Dr. Burton's.  
The rest "All spoiled." "*Of Water-Fowls.*" "Thrown away."

"Eggs." Page 436.

"All broke."

"Fishes, *Viviperous.*"

"Dr. Burton had some of these, not all worth a half-penny."

"*Oviporous* Fishes."

"*Scaled* Fishes."

"*Exanguinous* Fishes."

"Thrown away."

} Pages 438-9.

"Shells, *whirled and singled.*" Pages 439-42.

"Dr. Burton got the best, the rest thrown away."

"Shells, Double and Multiple." } Pages 442-5.

"Escalopes."

"The shells mostly broke, sent to Dr. Burton."

"Insects." Pages 445-6.

"All these spoiled."

"Plants, *with the several parts of them.*" Pages 446-50.  
These included "a noble collection of above 800 dried plants," collected by Dr. John Nicholson of York, and presented by his Widow; 30 specimens from Jamaica, by Hans Sloane, and others brought thence for Thoresby by a merchant, Mr. Samuel Kirkshaw; specimens of the supposed wheat showered down at Leeds,\* &c.

"All rotten and thrown on the dunghill."

"Trees, *with their fruits, &c.*" Pages 450-3.

Among these were presents from Sloane, Dr. Cay, Woodward and others; and a fragment of the Royal Oak of Boscobell from Parson Plaxton.

"All rotten or spoiled."

Dr. Burton got the "Formed Stones" and the Corals mentioned at Pages 454-5, but the remainder of Thoresby's geological and mineralogical collection came to an ignominious

\* Vol. I, page 112.

end. It was simply treated as so much rubbish. A "Florentine Marble," the gift of Dr. Cay, and described at page 457, is said in a note to have been "a common stone or whetstone." At the end of the chapter on "Formed Stones," page 465, there is written,—“All the natural curiosities were all in confusion and broke in pieces, and most of them cast on the dunghill;” and “Of Stones *Irregular*,” which next succeed, it is said,—“None of these were found.” Finally, at the foot of page 471, where this part of the catalogue ends, we have this account:—

“All the stones, minerals, salts, &c., thrown away, they having lain in a Garret like a Heap of Rubbish from 1726 to 1743, the rain, snow, &c., beating in on all sides, and during that time several persons rummaging them underfoot, so they became like a Dunghill; for during that time, if they ever had any beauty, it was quite spoiled.”

Nor did the other portion of Thoresby's Museum meet with all the respect and care which he might with good reason have anticipated. Out of the first section, “*Things relating to War*,” Dr. Burton had the Tomahaw from North Carolina, brought by Christopher Gale, Esq., Attorney-General in Queen Anne's reign; the Indian shield given to Thoresby by Thos. Garway, of Leeds, whose brother, Capt. John ap Rice had brought it from the East Indies; a Spanish weapon, halberd shape, the gift of a Captain Butler by whom it was taken in Valencia during the war of 1706; an antique copper sword found in Ireland; and Queen Elizabeth's steel, having her Arms, bust and initials on one side, and on the other Antonio, King of Portugal, with the date 1581, when he came to seek aid in England. This had been presented by a Mr. Harrison, of York. What became of the rest is not recorded, but at the end of the concluding paragraph of this section, devoted to examples of the effect of lightning, the note is appended,—“most of these being broke were cast away.”

The instruments of War are followed in the Catalogue by a small, but apparently curious collection of Mathematical instruments. To commence with, there was the Telescope made by the Minister at Mill Hill Chapel, the Rev. Thomas Sharp, brother to the astronomer,\* some magnifying and other glasses, and “a *Weather Glass* arising out of an artificial Rock, and supported by four Columns: This was amongst the Lord *Fairfax's* Curiosities, and was of the first invention with tintured Water, but is now much exceeded by the Mercurial Tubes.”

These are disposed of by one word,—“Broke.” Of the remainder, including “an *Ivory Multiplication Table* . . . supposed to have belonged to the Priory of Beauchief in Derbyshire,” whence it was brought to Thoresby by Wm. Nevile, Esq.; and “a declining Dial for the Library Window,” made by Abraham Sharp himself, we are told,—“All these things were sold to George Gargreave for 7s. 6d.”

Appended to “Household-Stuffs, Habits, &c,” at page 476, is the note,—“Most of these were rotten and cast away.” There is much in the collection under this head, occupying eleven pages of the catalogue, which, had it been preserved, would now have been examined with interest. Besides curious articles of dress and examples of needle-work, there were numerous items to which the above note seems scarcely to apply, as for instance,—the Abbot of Kirkstall’s Drinking Glass, Salt Cellar and Stirrup. But what is left short by the first note is supplied by another at the end of the chapter,—“All these spoiled by rain and rust were sold for 6s. to a Brazier, and probably otherwise stolen, for Mrs. Thoresby was careless about their preservation.” The preservation of one thing only among them is recorded,—“An Indian Cup of Cane-work

\* Vol. I, page 288.

admirably fine, as if needle-work of fine Thread or Silk (Seventy-two in an Inch)." This was given by Thomas Wilson to Miss Richardson.

The Statues, Bass-Relieves, &c., at page 487 are summarily disposed of,—“These were all broken or spoiled and cast away;” and these comprised portions of altar-pieces, or other Sculpture, from Kirkstall Abbey, Fountains, Temple-Newsam and York.

“*Matters relating to the Romish Superstition*” are enumerated in pages 487-91. “Dr. Burton,” says a note, “had all these marked, the other could not be found.” But only two things are marked,—a Draught in oils of a cross at Doncaster, and the Head of a Crosier.

Of the “*Seals, Impressions, Copper-Plates, &c.*,” at 491-2, a Seal with the Virgin and child, and Latin inscription, which before had a narrow escape, having been sold among old metal to a York bell-founder, in so far continued fortunate as to become Dr. Burton’s; and Wilson gave to Dr. Rawlinson another seal having a Z between two crosses, and inscribed “Gurdon de Pontfrac,” sent to Thoresby by the Rev. Mr. Lascels, Lecturer at Pontefract; a Bull of Pope Innocent 6th, dated Avignon 1361, for the induction of Wm. Donke into the Vicarage of Rotherham, and the expulsion of Robert Maplebeck; the impression of a seal found in a Vault at Beverley, the inscription being given at page 743 of Gibson’s *Britannia*; Engravings by Hollar and Lodge, and a mezzotint Portrait of Henry Gyles, of York, the glass painter.

The “Heathen Deities, Amulets, Charms, &c.,” pages 493-5, were valued thus,—“what were found of these were not worth twopence;” and another note,—“T. W. Price a penny, worth nothing,” is written against the begging billet of an impostor, who for four years had cleverly drawn back his tongue and

made believe that it had been cut out by the Turks; but he was finally sent to the House of Correction.

Of the "*Curiosities enamel'd, gilt; Paintings, &c.*," 495-500, those mentioned in the first paragraph, including the Duke of York's gold ring, before mentioned, were sent to Thoresby's Son, as well as the collection of portraits which follow. After the next series of engravings, &c., ending with a draught of Parmentier's "Giving of the Law" in Leeds Parish Church, is written,—"*None of these were found.*"

Among the next in order, Thoresby gives a curious account of a "Prophetic Picture concerning the Kings of England." He says,—"*The original is carefully preserved in the Vatican; it was carried to Rome by one Thomson, a priest, about the year 1626. My late pious friend Dr. Fall, Precentor of York, saw it there An. 1670, and by the favour of Cardinal Howard procured a copy of it, whence I took this. It is divided into eight scenes,*" &c. This, Thomas Wilson took, adding,—"*the rest were not there.*" He had also, from the things which immediately follow in the Catalogue,—*The likeness and writing of Hans Valery, a German born without hands or arms, who wrote with his feet and his mouth in different languages, and whom Thoresby saw in London in 1709, then again with his children in 1710 when exhibited in Leeds; the Chronological Tables of Tallent "delicately writ by himself when he was fourscore and four years of age;" the minute engraving by Sturt of the Lord's Prayer, Creed and Ten Commandments;\** the "*Saxon Charter, transcribed from the *Textus Roffensis* by Jacob Smith when but 9½," the gift of Elizabeth Elstob;† and "a specimen very finely writ with a Tobacco Pipe, by Ed. Smith, M.A., being part of the Lord's Prayer in Latin, Greek and English, very nicely performed upon parchement."*

\* *Ante*, page 191.

† *Ante*, page 203.

Half way down the next page of the catalogue is the note,—“all these torn, rotten or spoiled,” and the only further record concerning Ralph Thoresby’s “Artificial Curiosities” is, that to Dr. Rawlinson was given,—“A Jewish Philactery in Hebrew, in a single Scroll of Parchment, with the four Sentences of the Law mentioned by Dr. *Grew*, amongst the curiosities of the Royal Society;” concerning which he further related,—“Writ at my Request, and given by that learned Gentlewoman, Mrs. Eliz. Bland of Beeston in this Parish, who hath taught that Primitive Language, (wherein she was instructed by the Lord *Van Helmont*) to her Son and Daughter.”\*

Even the collection of Antiquities, for which at least respect might have been anticipated, found slight estimation. The Roman Altar discovered at Pierce-Bridge, obtained by Thoresby’s father, and the subject of Dr. Martin Lister’s paper in Philosophical Transactions, passed into the possession of Dr. Burton; and so did the next thing in the Catalogue:—

“The image of *Jupiter Ammon* very well performed in solid Brass; it is little more than four Inches long, whereas that found in the Ruins of the *Picts* wall, and lately in Lord *Lonsdale’s* Possession was rather more than six.”

To this follows a headless figure of “Mercury, with the *Chlamys* over his left shoulder, the gift of Parson Plaxton; a Copper gilt *Pallas* or *Vesta*, and the remains of other two figures, all of which are dismissed as “childish.” Of the remainder catalogued on page 556 it is merely said, “not found;” and these included a small bas-relief of a *Roman Triumph* which had been sent from Italy to Archbishop Sharp as a great curiosity, and then given to Thoresby by him.

“Certain Molds for counterfeiting the Roman Monies,” found at Thorp-upon-the-Hill, near Lingwell Gate, in 1697, and described by Thoresby at some length, are said to have been

\* *Ante*, page 306, *n*.

“all in rubbish;” and the succeeding paragraph, which speaks of Roman Fibulæ from York, has the note to it,—“This Paragraph is all fib: Old Buckles and Fragments of Horses’ Harness.”

Like contempt is displayed for the rest of Thoresby’s collection of Antiquities, with few exceptions. Fragments of a Roman Jet bracelet given by Dr. Martin Lister to John Thoresby, and of another given to his son by Bishop Nicolson, were “all children’s baubles and were thrown away;” tesserae from Roman pavements at Aldborough, Beverley, Kirkby near Tadcaster, and from Ireland,—“all rubbish;” fragments of Roman urns,—“rubbish;” Roman Lamps and fragments of embossed pottery,—“Common potsherds and thrown out;” specimens of Roman glass from London, York, Aldborough and Adel,—“thrown away;” part of the bottom of a sort of clay coffin from York, described at page 561,—“All rubbish.” Against the long paragraph on the following page concerning Roman bricks is written,—“All rubbish, to the Highways;” against a round stone ball from Aldborough, &c.,—“Childish stuff of no value;” and a Roman bell nearly a foot in circumference, the gift of Parson Plaxton, was consigned “to a Tinker.”

After the mention of this bell in Thoresby’s catalogue we have the following:—

“In the *Roman* Sepulture at *Yorke*, was also digg’d up Part of an *Aqueduct* of red Clay, consisting of many Pieces wrought in a Cylindrical Form, each a Foot long, and four Inches Diameter, and are wrought in the form of a Scrue, or Spiral Line on the In-side, and hath a narrow neck at one End to put into the open end of the other.”

Having procured two of these, Thoresby deposited one with the Royal Society; but the far different estimation in which they were held by his Successors is indicated by the one word, “rubbish.”



The next thing in the catalogue of Thoresby's Antiquities was a shield "in the form of the Roman Parma," and this Dr. Burton took. He had also "the *Securis Lapidea*, or rather *Marmorea*," which forms the subject of Hearne's dissertation in the 4th. Vol. of Leland's Itinerary. Of the Brass Lance and Stone to sharpen it, found along with the *Securis*, it is said,—“these were found, but were modern and childish.” A brass sword from Dublin, and one from the Isle of Man, presented by the Bishop, are noted thus:—“They were so rusty and ill shaped, T. W. says they were judged to be bars for a Fireplace in some poor man's Cottage.”

Lastly, “an antique Alcove,” formerly part of a shrine in the Lady Chapel of York Minster, is said to have been in 1757,—“over the door, where his library was, and of no value;” and the concluding annotation appended to the final paragraph of the Catalogue is,—“Most of these were fragments of little value, nothing entire but 3 Urns, Dr. Burton's.”

Such was the fate of this curious Museum, to which Ralph Thoresby had devoted so much time and care, which had become known far and wide, had attracted illustrious visitors to the town containing it, and had much contributed to the fame of its owner among men of curiosity and learning. It may be that in numerous instances Thoresby had bestowed more care than they altogether merited upon articles of trifling interest; but allowing for this, Leeds has good cause to regret its loss of “Musæum Thoresbyanum.”

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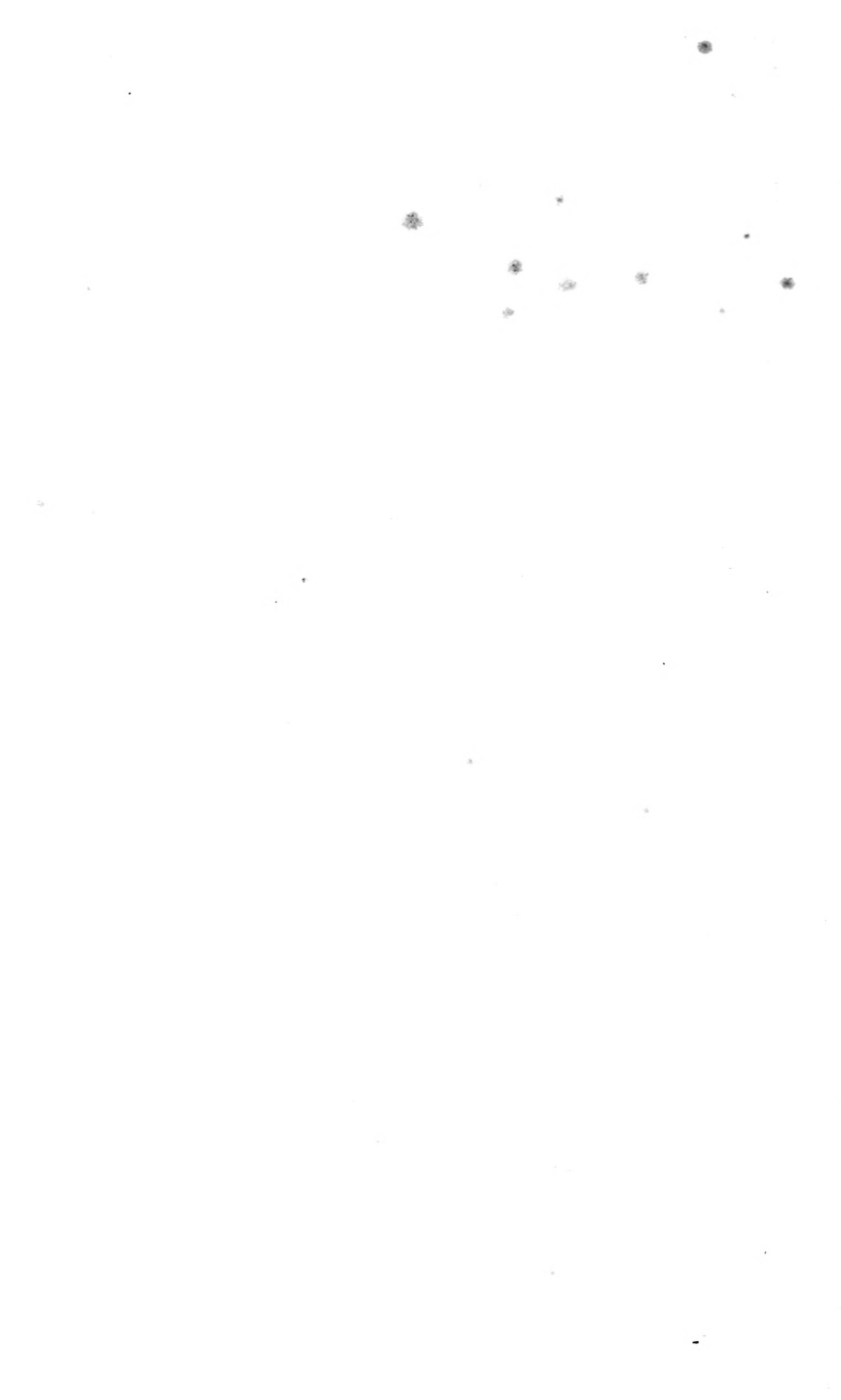
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